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THURSDAY, APRIL 22ND, 2010

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU, MEYRICK!

100 years old and he is 'still as sharp as a knife'

by TIM CHAPMAN

DOZENS of people visited Longmeadow Court sheltered housing in Cowbridge on Monday, April 19 to wish old soldier Meyrick O'Connor a very happy 100th birthday.

Despite his advanced age, Meyrick remains very active, with a daily trip on his zimmer frame to his favourite haunt, The Bear Hotel, where he is always welcomed warmly.

He told The GEM: "I had my first pint with my father there when I was 14, and I've been a regular ever since."

Meyrick was born on April 19, 1910 to Cornelius O'Connor and Elizabeth Jane O'Connor (nee Thomas) and was one of 12 children – there were eight brothers and four sisters.

He said: "I was born in Bridgend and grew up at Wolf House Farm, Llysworney. I can still remember my first day at the local school!

"My father, who was originally from Waterford, was a cattle dealer who used to travel a lot to Ireland. After finishing school, I became a farm worker."

Meyrick served with the Signals during the Second World War, and demonstrated his mischievous side as he recalled his time abroad.

"I served in Egypt and Italy, and knew General Montgomery – he used to clean my boots!

"While I was in Egypt I even got a chance to climb the pyramids."

Meyrick is the last survivor of the 12 siblings – his sister Blanche died two years ago.

LEFT: Still going strong – Meyrick celebrates his 100th birthday with Cora Gould of the Angels care team.

Family and friends gathered to wish Meyrick a happy birthday, and he was given a telegram from the Queen.

The Mayor of the Vale, Coun Emlyn Williams, and the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Jon Harris, were also on hand to wish Meyrick 'many happy returns' for the day.

Linda Flanagan, the sheltered housing warden, said: "We've never had anything as big as this at Longmeadow Court sheltered housing. Julian Hitchcock of The Bear Hotel gave a speech of congratulation to Meyrick, everyone sang 'Happy Birthday', and we drank a toast to him."

Meyrick attributes part of the reason for his longevity to the fact that no woman could ever pin him down to getting married!

His nephew, Dr Monty Edwards, who had travelled from the Gower for the special birthday celebration, told The GEM: "He has still got a wonderful memory and is as sharp as a knife!"

Aviation history is made in Vale as the flight ban bites

by TIM CHAPMAN

ON Wednesday, April 21, white vapour trails criss-crossed the blue skies of the Vale as air travel returned to normal, but last Sunday as darkness fell – with the flying ban still in place – aviation history was made at Cardiff Airport.

A British Airways 747 test flight, bearing chief executive Willie Walsh, which had flown from Heathrow and 550 miles out into the Atlantic, landed in the Vale – the only passenger aircraft in UK airspace at the time.

After a six-day flight ban, restrictions were lifted by the National Air Traffic Services at 10pm on Tuesday, and passengers were being advised to contact airlines for information as airports struggled to get back to normal

The frustration of air travellers in the past week was illustrated by Dorwen and David Davies from the Rhondda, who arrived at a deserted Cardiff Airport on Friday, in the hope that their flight would leave at 5pm.

LEFT: Going nowhere – Dorwen Davies's hopes of a dream holiday cruise were shattered by the flight ban over the last week.

Mrs Davies explained: "We were off to Singapore for a 16-day cruise which was to take in Vietnam and Hong Kong.

"The travel operator had advised us to make ourselves available for the flight.

"We booked this a year ago, but with the weekend delays we will definitely miss the beginning of the cruise."

Although the couple thought a flight for Singapore would leave early this week, it seemed doubtful that a connection could be made with the cruise ship in time to make the trip worthwhile.

For the latest flight information on Cardiff Airport, go to www.tbi-cardiffairport.com.

Amy aims to raise funds for charity in London Marathon

LOCAL resident Amy Williams is gearing up to run the Virgin London Marathon this Sunday to help raise funds for the disability charity Livability.

Amy (23), whose family home is in the village of Llandough, just outside Cowbridge, jumped at the chance to support a cause that is important to the lives of disabled people, and to achieve a personal goal of completing 26 miles, 385 yards.

She explained: "Livability enables disabled people to have the freedom to enjoy life. Knowing how important this is has made me determined to complete the course.

"I've set myself a finishing target of four hours."

In preparation for the challenge ahead, Amy has embarked on an intensive seven-month training programme, fitting in runs and gym around her work.

She has been working in London for The World Trade Group for the last 18 months, but has been doing two hours training in the gym after work each day.

She said: "One of my closest friends ran for Livability in the past and I wanted to support a charity working in the area of special needs. So far I have raised £1,300.

"The London Marathon is not only a personal challenge, but a great way of raising funds for charity."

Yvette Gillingham, the events manager at Livability, added: "We are delighted that Amy is running the marathon in support of the charity. Anyone who would like to support her fundraising efforts for Livability can email marathon-team@livability.org.uk or go to www.justgiving.com/amy-williams1."

ABOVE: Amy Williams from Llandough will be putting on her running shoes on Sunday in a bid to raise funds in the London Marathon for the special needs charity Livability.

Cowbridge to host hustings

ON TV we have had Dave, Nick and Gordon – now in Cowbridge it is your chance to question the Vale's seven parliamentary candidates.

John Smith is standing down as the Vale's MP. The following people are seeking election:

Alun Cairns, Conservative; Alana Davies, Labour; John Harrold, Christian Party; Ian Johnson, Plaid Cymru; Kevin Mahoney, UKIP; Eluned Parrott, Liberal Democrat; Rhodri Thomas, Green.

People can question all seven candidates at the election hustings Cowbridge on Tuesday, April 27 at 7.30pm.

The meeting, which is being held at Holy Cross Church, is open to everyone and is an ideal opportunity to quiz the candidates.

Sue Freeland, who is helping to organise the hustings on behalf of Churches Together in Cowbridge, said: "I am looking forward to the hustings. We have held two previously, in 2001 and 2005, both of which were very lively affairs with heated questioning and debate. As this is a marginal seat, we are expecting another lively evening."

At the last election, Mr Smith held the seat with 1,808 votes.

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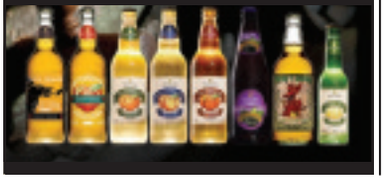

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Local residents oppose biomass power plant

IT was pleasing to see that all seven of the prospective parliamentary candidates for the Vale constituency were able to appear at the well attended 'climate change' meeting at the Tabernacle in Barry organised by Christian Aid.

It was also encouraging that all of the candidates expressed their firm opposition to the second application for a biomass power plant by Sunrise Renewables Ltd.

This re-enforces the position of Barry Town Council, who along with the majority of local residents, are calling for the rejection of the planning application.

I urge any reader who has not yet done so, to object by writing to the head of planning (Mr R Thomas) at the Barry Dock Offices without further delay. We do not want this plant and it's pollution in Barry! I hope the proposal will be thrown out at the planning meeting on May 20.

David McCulloch, Barry.

'That unnecessary digital switchover'

MR EMYR HUGHES ('Wales not a digital guinea pig' GEM last week) thinks the vast majority of viewers have had no problems!

I haven't met anyone who is happy, and my own experience beggars belief.

Unlike recent letter writer James Wild, about the only station I can get now is ITV Wales, and that comes and goes without warning. What's the point of dozens of extra unwanted channels if you can't get the basics?

The helpline (supposed to be for the benefit of pensioners like myself) is worse than useless. Whatever happened to that charming young man, looking for wife, who was supposed to help the elderly?

After the first re-tune (March 3) I couldn't switch the set on at all, and I had to spend good money on professional assistance.

After March 31, I found I was now not living in Wales but in the west of England.

Now I'm lucky to get the BBC channels at all – and I suppose I shall be faced with extra unexpected expenses to retrieve any kind of normal viewing!

My daughter in Cardiff has to retune over and over again. Proud that Wales is the first nation to complete this unnecessary process? Not us! Yours in utter frustration!

Patricia Price, Cowbridge

Wouldn't it be lovely?

Wouldn't it be lovely if all our councillors forgo their imminent four per cent pay rise and use the money to repair our potholed roads. Then everyone would be happy!

Marjorie Voaden, Rhoose

Please email your letters to the Editorial Department at: ggem@internet-today.co.uk

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Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'IT IS TIME TO REDEFINE THE ISLAND'S FUTURE'

PLANS for providing tourist accommodation with a static caravan site at Nells Point are to be welcomed – so long as high environmental standards are met and much greater imagination and flair is used for developing the rest of the site.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to redefine and transform Barry Island as a tourist attraction.

Assuming a budget hotel, cinema and other leisure facilities are catered for in the plans for the Fairground and Waterfront sites, any criteria for developing the Nells Point site must aim to:

- create iconic family visitor attractions;
- extend the range of all-year round and wet weather facilities;
- provide better facilities for the water sport users;
- extend the range of tourist accommodation in the area, such as a caravan site;
- include some residential development to provide funding for community developments.

New ideas such as a Sea Life centre/aquarium, like the one in Tynemouth (a resort very similar to Barry, on the outskirts of Newcastle) need to be developed on the site where they do not take up much land, yet provide excellent family entertainment.

As a resident on the Island, I have witnessed many unhappy visitors, such as coach trips from the West Midlands, who arrive on a wet or dull day and there is nothing for them to do.

By making the most of the Nells Point site, in conjunction with the Fairground and Waterfront sites, there is a real chance to redefine Barry as a year-round, all-weather tourist destination to boost the economy and transform the image of our area.

Sadly, the current proposals are selling the Island and local people short by aiming low, failing to show any enterprise, drive or imagination to make the most of this fantastic site and opportunity.

If we tolerate this I don't think future generations will thank us.

Andy Green, Barry Island

Questions over conservation area cuts in Llantwit Major

IF anyone is surprised or disturbed by the reduction in size of the Llantwit Major conservation area, they have not heard or read of statements by the current government about house-building on green belts, or in the countryside generally.

No-one has said why this is desirable or necessary. A few weeks ago, The GEM published a notice from the Vale Council on designation and variation of conservation areas. It listed 19 areas.

In 15, the areas had been reduced in size. A number were altered to provide "logical boundaries" – exactly the opposite of what has been done in Llantwit. Only one area – Broughton – was enlarged.

The cabinet member for planning, Coun Jeff James, is quoted as saying: "I am satisfied that the issues were given an extremely fair, open and rigorous assessment ...there was widespread consultation."

The Llantwit Major Local History Society has about 200 members, and a committee of 20. We were sent one copy of the draft document, so discussion was very limited.

A 'surgery' was held here for one day, advertised by a small paragraph in The GEM.

If there were other notices, I have not spoken to anyone who has seen one.

In a meeting with the conservation officer, I was told that 13 people attended, apart from councillors and officers.

According to the Vale Council officers, letters regarding the reviews in Llantwit Major and Boverton were sent to all residents.

I know several residents who were not informed. Widespread consultation?

Thanks to pressure from local councillors and historians, a meeting was held with Vale officers. It was quite clear that the Vale would not budge. The decisions had been made.

Who will benefit from this reduction in protection for our communities, and who will lose? Local people, or builders and developers, as the planning process will be less rigorous?

Last year, a planning application to build on the site of the old sorting office was rejected, partly on the unsuitability of the design in a conservation area.

What happens now? Do we wait for the election and hope for better? A plague on both their houses.

Vivian Kelly, Llantwit Major

'Unpronounceable street names'

NOW that the next phase of the Barry docks development will be under way soon, perhaps we can have a competition – to see who can pick the most unpronounceable Welsh names for the streets.

The winner could have a weekend in Carmarthen and have a nice meal of laver bread and Welsh cakes!

Nigel Lloyd, Barry

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 29)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
22 Thur	00.24	8.0	13.12	7.8
23 Fri	01.49	7.9	14.37	7.9
24 Sat	03.09	8.2	15.58	8.4
25 Sun	04.22	8.7	16.49	8.8
26 Mon	05.13	9.3	17.42	9.4
27 Tues	06.02	9.7	18.32	9.7
28 Wed	06.56	9.9	19.16	10.0
29 Thur	07.37	10.0	19.58	9.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide tablespecific to their location.

USEFUL VALE INFORMATION

CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111
(Emergency number 999)
COASTGUARD 01792 366534
FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188
HELPLINES
Alcohol and drugs:
Drinkline **0800 9178282**
National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
VALE WOMEN'S AID 01446 744755
MENTAL DISTRESS
(Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
Mental Health Helpline:
Freephone **0800 132 737**
MIND in the Vale of Glamorgan
01446 730792 or www.mindinthevale.org.uk
CHILDLINE 0800 1111 - www.childline.org.uk
Rape Crisis Centre 08451 221331.
RSPCA 0300 123 0744. MIND 01446 746191.
AIDS helplines 0800 567123.
Child abuse – NSPCC 0808 800 5000.
Alcoholics Anonymous – (24 hours) 0845 7697555.
Drug Aid (24 hours) 02920 881000.
Inroads Drugs Project – 42, Holton Road, Barry. 01446 404040.
Vale Victim & Witness Support - Barry Magistrates Court, Thompson Street, Barry CF63 4SX. 01446 730704.

MP & AM's SURGERY TIMES

To make a surgery appointment with John Smith MP, contact the constituency office (01446) 743769. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

To make a surgery appointment with Jane Hutt AM, contact the constituency office (01446) 740981. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

CITIZENS' ADVICE

At 119 Broad Street, Barry. Drop in Mon-Fri (not Weds) 9.30am - 4.30am (Wed 11am-6pm); at Llantwit Major Youth Centre, Station Road 9.30am - 11.30am Mon and Fri. Telephone advice 0845 120 3756. *Further information www.adviceguide.org.uk*

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police - Gladstone Road, Barry; for normal service 01446 734451; in emergency 999. Fire - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Pontyclun 01443 232000; in emergency 999. Coastguard - Regional Office, Swansea 01792 366534; in emergency 999.

Gas - Gas emergency number 0800 111999.

Electricity - Emergency 0800 0520400; Water - Emergency 0800 052 0130; supply 0800 0520130.

Trading Standards Consumer Advice Centre - Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry; hours of opening for telephone enquiries - Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-5pm; Friday 8.30am-4.30pm on 01446 700111. For personal visits, Monday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm. Friday 9am-4pm. Recycling Hotline, 01446 700111.

To report a fly tipping incident - 01446 700111.

HOSPITALS

The Barry Hospital - visiting 2pm-8pm each day, 01446 704000. Llandough - Wards have individual visiting times. For details call 029 2071 1711. Princess of Wales - 01656 752752/668090.

For Out Of Hours Chemists, call the Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board on 02920 350600, or NHS Direct Wales on 0845 4647.

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HIGH SOCIETY'S DATE IN LONDON

Cowbridge retailers meet Princess Royal

LEFT: Alan Hannah, Awen Evans, Emma Hartman and Marguerite Hannah at the opening ceremony.

A COWBRIDGE-BASED business had a brush with royalty recently, when the two owners paid a visit to one of their long-standing suppliers of wedding dresses.

Emma Hartman and Awen Evans, the co-owners of High Society, were invited to the opening of the new workshop and head office of wedding dress designer, Alan Hannah, which was performed by HRH The Princess Royal.

Awen Evans told The GEM: "We were delighted to visit Alan Hannah's new premises in London, where we met Princess Anne.

"It was a fabulous day and the workshop is exactly what you picture: covered in lace, silk and jewels, with industrious seamstresses handmaking their beautiful gowns."

Designer label Alan Hannah sits at the top end of the market and has delivered, for 20 years this year, collection after collection of superb wedding dresses.

Emma said: "Alan and Marguerite invested in a brand new unit in Enfield, and have created a vast state-of-the-art space, where the light is brilliant. and the atmosphere warmly welcoming.

"Because the Hannahs have long-insisted on keeping every stage of production here in the UK, from design to construction to making, the right environment is crucial to their work."

Alan and Marguerite and their team are preparing the new collection that will be unveiled at White Gallery in May.

The Princess Royal, visited in her capacity as president of UKFT (The UK Fashion & Textile Association), the organisation that keenly supports companies who manufacturer in the UK.

In the showroom area, The Princess Royal then met key retailers from the UK and abroad, and representatives from the main bridal magazines.

Alan Hannah has been shortlisted in the final three for the High Octane Glamour award at the UKFT awards in May.

LEFT: Emma and Awen meet The Princess Royal.

Cowbridge Male Voice Choir celebrates its 40 successful years of song!

IN November 1970, a group of three singing enthusiasts distributed hundreds of leaflets throughout the Vale with the aim of starting a male voice choir in the town of Cowbridge.

Cowbridge Male Voice Choir gave its first concert in Cowbridge Town Hall with David Richards as musical director and Sandra Williams as accompanist. Sandra has performed in this capacity ever since – a remarkable record of service and dedication.

During the 1970s, the young choir grew rapidly in reputation and confidence, staging a number of joint concerts with leading brass bands, competing in the televised HTV series 'Corau Meibion' ('Male Choirs') and appearing in the Royal Albert Hall with Dame Vera Lynn and Larry Adler for a Burma Star Association reunion.

In 1979, under the musical direction of Iwan Guy, the choir undertook its overseas tour to the province of Saskatchewan in Canada, giving 17 concerts in 16 days – a fine example of youthful enthusiasm and endurance!

Since then, the choir has toured extensively in the USA and Europe (including Cyprus, Malta, Hungary and the Czech Republic) and hosted numerous overseas choirs from such far-flung places as Russia, Hungary, Iceland, Canada, the USA and New Zealand.

It currently has three CDs available – 'In Lighter Vein' and a double CD 'Voices from the Vale/Lleisiau'r Fro'.

Specimen downloads can be obtained through the website www.cmvc.co.uk, and copies of the CDs from the choir secretary.

The choir's extensive repertoire covers a wide range of music embracing the traditional Welsh favourites, and ranging through popular songs and medleys of beautiful music from London stage shows right up to the present day.

Many of these pieces have been specially arranged for the choir by their current musical director, Shelley Thomas Brown. Shelley joined the choir in 1985 and still holds the post – yet another example of exceptional dedication and loyalty to the choir.

Over the years the choir has always supported worthy causes throughout the UK and abroad, raising hundreds of thousands of pounds including more than £20,350 in the last year alone.

Charities that have benefited include the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital in London, the Salvation Army, Rotary International, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Barnardo's, the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford, Leukaemia Research, National Children's Homes, Action Duchenne and Charing Cross Hospital, London.

The choir also perform at weddings and private functions such as the annual dinner of the Rolls Royce and Bentley Club of GB.

Cowbridge Male Voice Choir is supported financially by some 70 vice-presidents. Their honorary president is the renowned Welsh soprano, Iona Jones, who has sung as a soloist all over the world, including the Carnegie Hall and the Sydney Opera House.

The deputy conductor/deputy accompanist is Ryan Wood who, in addition has his own mixed choir in Maesteg, and is in great demand as an accompanist for soloists and other choirs.

Now in their 40th anniversary year, the choir look forward to the future with confidence. To celebrate this momentous event, the choir will be having brand new uniforms – changing after 20 years from maroon blazers and light grey slacks to green blazers and black trousers.

The choir's next local concert will take place in Cowbridge Leisure Centre on Saturday, May 22. Appropriately, this will be their '40th Anniversary Concert' and, besides the choir, it will feature the sensational voice of the honorary president Iona Jones, who is a great favourite with Cowbridge audiences.

The concert is sponsored by Redrow Homes Ltd. For further information, please contact the website at www.cmvc.co.uk.

BOB WHITAKER

Cowbridge Art Society

ON Thursday, April 29 at 7pm in Old Hall, High Street, the art society is pleased to welcome Robin Gray, who will be demonstrating sketching techniques'.

On May 1, Doug Eaton will be returning to give a workshop in acrylics, or other materials if preferred. This will be held at a different venue – St Hilary Village Hall – from 10am-4pm. Enquiries to 01446 775735. Non-members are welcome to attend either meeting.

RNLI hosts traditional town hall supper

EAGER supporters of the RNLI met in Cowbridge Town Hall last month for the annual town hall supper provided by the Cowbridge branch.

The audience was addressed by Ray Brown, former cox of the Barry Dock lifeboat, and now district assessor trainer for Wales and the Isle of Man.

Ray described the high level of training and capability of modern lifeboat crews and the need to keep their skills up to date.

Entertainment was provided by the Garw Valley Male Voice Choir who gave some stirring presentations of traditional Welsh songs together with solo renditions by members and guest soloist Alan Lewis.

A good evening was rounded off with a raffle and the whole event raised more than £800 for the RNLI which is maintained entirely by voluntary contributions.

The Cowbridge branch is anxious to recruit new members to its organising committee. Anyone who feels they might be able to help should contact the chairman Tudor Phillips on 01656 890256.

DAVID PUGH

Samaritans' new support group

BRIDGEND Samaritans have announced the formation of a support group for those bereaved by suicide.

The group will offer support to those bereaved by suicide by allowing people the time and space to explore their feelings, to share their experiences with others and to support each other in confidential and comfortable surroundings.

Samaritans' volunteers will be facilitating the group, and will also be available to provide one to one support if needed.

Darren Matthews, the branch director at Bridgend, said "There is a clear need for such a group within Bridgend county following the deaths of young people over the past two years.

There are many people in the community who are affected by each death, and with the stigma that surrounds suicide, they often feel isolated with nowhere to turn".

He added, "Following the success of our 'Feet on the Street' outreach project, where Samaritans' volunteers go out to support people on the streets of Bridgend, and our large scale awareness campaigns running locally, we have seen a 40 per cent increase in volunteers.

"This allows us to take on extra work such as the support group and I am pleased that we are now able to start this project for the community."

The group is open to all, and the first meeting will be held at the Heronston Hotel on May 6 at 7pm. Initially the group will meet once a month but it could meet more frequently, subject to demand.

Anyone interested in attending should contact Bridgend Samaritans on 01656 662333 or email bridgend@samaritans.org

An 'Alice' inspiration for fundraising event

ABOVE: The Mad Hatter's tea party at Karma Beauty left Help for Heroes in Wonderland after staff raised more than £150 for the charity.

A MAD Hatters Tea Party took place at Karma Beauty on Saturday, April 17.

A spokeswoman said: "We raised more than £150 for Help for Heroes through the sales of cakes, manicures and Indian Head Massages.

"We had a fantastic day, with a great turnout and many great costumes! Special thanks go to Cakes for Celebrations and Mellisa Powell for their generosity."

BLOOD DONORS

THE Welsh Blood Service will hold donor sessions at Cowbridge Leisure Centre, The Broadshoard, Cowbridge, on May 16, 10am-4pm; May 17, 10am-6pm.

Telephone 0800 252266 for further details.

Choral society's spring concert

COWBRIDGE Choral Society will be presenting a spring concert on Saturday, April 24 in Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, at 7.30pm.

A variety of pieces will be performed, including works by Rheinberger, Haydn, Parry and others. The soloist for the evening will be Vanessa Thomas (accompanist Geoff Howells) and the concert will be conducted by Carole Lloyd.

Tickets are available from Quills of Cowbridge and choir members. Children under-12 are admitted free of charge.

For further information, telephone 01446 773568 or 01446 774156.

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VALE CHURCH CHOIR SINGS WITH NEW LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL PIPE ORGAN

ABOVE: Singing at Llandaff Cathedral was a thrill for the younger choristers.

ABOVE: Musical director James Bull (centre) with the choir at Llandaff Cathedral.

THE St Peter's Parish Church choir recently made the short trip frpm Peterston-super-Ely to Llandaff Cathdral where they became the first visiting choir to sing Evensong and Eucharist with the brand new multi-million pound pipe organ.

The choir was well supported by villagers, particularly at Sunday Evensong, where Peterston's musical director, James Bull, had the honour of playing the voluntary on the giant pipe organ.

The choir have previously sung at both Wells and Worcester Cathedrals, and are seeking new choristers.

Anyone interested in joining the choir should contact James on 07793 738344.

ABOVE: The majestic pipe organ

Local man (18) crashed and caused death of close friend

by AJ SICLUNA

A DRINK driver who caused the death of a close friend after losing control of his car on a bend has been sent to a young offender institution for three-and-a-half years and disqualified from driving for five years at Cardiff Crown Court.

Adam Thorogood (18) of Boverton had passed his driving test only four weeks before. After the crash, he was found to be one-and-a-half times over the drink driving limit and, said prosecutor Michael Jones, he had taken cannabis some hours before.,

James Coates, aged 18, an apprentice bricklayer, described by his mother as being a happy person, was ejected from the car when it overturned on a left-hand bend betwen Llantwit Major and St Athan, and his body was found beneath a tree. He died from multiple injuries.

Thorogood, who had no previous convictions, admitted causing the death of Mr Coates by driving carelessly and with excess alcohol.

When he was arrested, he told the police he "had taken a chance" by driving that night. A chance, he said, that went "terribly wrong".

Judge Stephen Hopkins told Thorogood: "Drink drivers maim or kill innocent people."

Mr Jones said that in the early hours of August 22, Thorogood went with Mr Coates and two other friends, Matthew Bawden and Jonathan Luxton, to a 24-hour garage to buy cigarettes.

But five minutes later, he lost control of his car which hit a verge and trees and turned over.

A pilot, Gavin Andrews, driving home from Cardiff Wales Airport, despite braking hard, struck the car which was on its roof.

Thorogood was repeatedly saying: "What have I done, what have I done," and said he had been drinking.

Mr Bawden and Mr Luxton had to be cut free from the vehicle.

No mechanical defects were found in the car.

Mr Jones said that Thorogood confessed to have been drinking and to have taken "some weed" earlier that day.

He said he had a vague recollection of the incident but said that at one point, his car "went nuts".

He also said he had not been a confident driver at night and sometimes forgot to put on his lights.

"This defendant was an inexperienced driver who had taken excess alcohol and cannabis before deciding to drive at night to get cigarettes. It was a decision which had tragic consequences." said Mr Jones.

Defence counsel Jeremy Jenkins said Thorogood and his family approached the case in a realistic way and did not have any false hopes.

He said he had lost a close friend and his remorse was heartfelt and genuine.

His behaviuour, said Mr Jenkins. was totally uncharacteristic and the consequences were tragic.

He said Thorogood had written a letter to the court saying that he thought about what had happened last thing at night and when he woke up in the morning.

"There's not a day when I don't think about James and his family," he wrote.

Mr Jenkins said the reason for the accident remains a mystery.

No sentence, he added, could cover his loss.

The judge told Thorogood he would have to live for the rest of his life with the memory, but it was nothing compared to the suffering being experienced by Mr Coates' mother.

Election hopefuls confirmed in Vale

THE full list of parliamentary candidates for the Vale of Glamorgan constituency has been published, after the deadline expired on Tuesday.

Seven candidates will be contesting the general election, and they are listed as follows:

Alun Cairns - Conservative; Alana Davies - Labour; Ian Johnson - Plaid Cymru; Eluned Parrott - Liberal Democrats; Kevin Mahoney - UKIP; Rhodri Thomas - Green Party; John Harrold - Christian Party.

The seven hopefuls recently attended a hustings in Barry, and they are pictured on page 11.

Rotary hails 'great effort' by public in Haiti relief effort

MEMBERS of Cowbridge Rotary Club have played their part in raising more than £3 million for emergency supplies in the first three months of this year for Haiti and other countries hit by disasters.

Rotary members believe that the staggering total shows how much the public care for others at times of great need and that Rotary is trusted to deliver help where it is needed the most.

President Colin Jones of the Rotary Club of Cowbridge said: "Our members were all out and doing whatever we could to raise funds.

"You cannot fail to be moved by the horrific news reports and stories of loss.

"We are very grateful to the people of Cowbridge who have given so generously and contributed to this amazing figure. We work closely with the community and it is thanks to this relationship that people feel they can trust us to do the right thing with their donations."

Since July, the Rotary club has donated four Shelterboxes, the Interact club, one box, Y Bont Faen School, three boxes and Llancarfan School three boxes – a total of 11.

Aquabox, Water Survival Box and ShelterBox volunteers have worked tirelessly to get aid to Haiti, Chile and other countries affected by disasters, as well as supporting those who are providing help.

Had it not been for the unique design of the aid boxes and life-saving equipment contained within, hundreds if not thousands of lives would have been lost.

If you would like to join the Rotary Club of Cowbridge or know more about Rotary in your area, visit www.ribi.org or contact Richard Griffiths 01446 772248.

Schools raise £1,135 for polio eradication

RECENTLY, Rotary clubs in Britain held a high-profile 'Thanks for Life' week.

This included mock 'Immunisation days' at local primary schools. Many children donated a £1 for 'Purple Pinkie'. The final total donated has been announced as £1,135.

The schools were: St Nicholas; Ysgol Iolo Morgannwg; Llanfair County Primary; Llancarfan; Pendoylan; Peterston-super-Ely Church in Wales; Cowbridge Comprehensive Lower School – (this day was organised by the Sixth Form Rotary Interact Club).

The Rotary Club of Cowbridge would like to thank the schools and all the children for their enthusiastic support.

Car boot sales off to a bumper start

COWBRIDGE Rotary Club held its first car boot sale of the year on April 11 in the town hall car park – blessed by excellent sunshine, support was wonderful.

A total of 73 cars sold a wide range of items, and plenty of customers thronged the stalls. Latecomers had to use the overflow car park (by kind permission of Arthur John Ltd.).

The Rotary club took £110 on its own stall, bringing the total for Rotary's charity work to £475 for the day. Thanks to all the sellers and buyers who supported the event.

Future dates are: May 8 and June 12. Selling starts at 8.30 am.

Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club results

VALE of Glamorgan Bridge Club (club championship third round) April 12:

1st, Marjorie Morris and Bill Turner 63.39 per cent; 2nd, Mike Best and Kevin Maddox 59.23; 3rd, Vida Halford and Glyn Williams 58.63; 4th, Terry Reilly and John Evans 58.33; 5th, Graham Norris and David Stephenson 52.98; 6th, John Henson and Geoff Tinkler 52.68.

The club championship is played over three weeks and the best two results count – final winners were Vida Halford and Glyn Williams with 121.08 per cent; 2nd, Debbie and Simon Richards 120.54; 3rd, John Evans and Terry Reilly 120.53.

Cowbridge and District Bridge Club, April 13:

1st, Ann Miller and Judy Springett 64.50 per cent; 2nd, Hugh Williams and Gordon Berrey 63.18; 3rd, Debbie Rosevear and Amy Owen 59.50; 4th, Pat and Brian Swain 59.00; 5th, Marian East and Pauline McAllen 58.50; 6th, Terri Pollard and David Wright 54.50.

BS

GUILTY PLEA TO DRUG POSSESSION

Teacher is cleared of rape allegation

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

THE head of Welsh at a Bridgend Comprehensive School has been cleared of allegations at Cardiff Crown Court that he raped a 19-year-old woman he met at a Southerndown pub and supplied cocaine.

But 38-year-odd Huw Elystan Davies pleaded guilty to possessing the drug, worth about £50, and was fined £515. If he fails to pay the fine, he will go to prison for 14 days.

Davies, of Bridgend, who taught at Brynteg Comprehensive School, and was also a local councillor, and a school governor, was awarded his defence costs.

Davies, a man with no previous convictions, denied the charges of rape and supplying cocaine

Prosecutor Leighton Hughes said: "This is day six of the trial. The jury has heard the entire prosecution case, save for the evidence of the police interviews."

He said that he had to consider whether the available evidence provided for a realistic prospect of a conviction, and was the prosecution of the accused in the public interest.

He said he considered that the evidence had changed dramatically and had been undermined significantly.

Therefore, he said, he had reached the conclusion that it would be inappropriate for the prosecution to seek a conviction on the evidence available.

He offered no further evidence and Davies was formally found not guilty.

It had been claimed that Davies met the girl in a Southerndown pub and she returned with him to his home where, it is claimed, she was raped.

Davies later told the police that he didn't supply her with cocaine and she willingly had sex with him.

Judge Stephen Hopkinds told Davies: "There is a myth that cocaine leads to no real harm. Nothing could be further from the truth."

He said it could lead to physical and psychological addiction and could cause a personality disorder: "You were at the time of your arrest a teacher at Brynteg Comprehensive School. What a truly dreadful example you have set"

The judge said he would be "horrified" to learn that his son or daughter had been in his charge.

Davies' reputation, he said, was now irreparably damaged.

Defence counsel Elwan Evans QC said it was a difficult case to litigate because of the consequences of the allegations.

"He has lost everything," she said.

Throughout the case, she said his family had fully supported him.

Work under way on Dinas bus lane scheme

A 30-week road engineering scheme on the outskirts of Dinas Powys is part of an overall Assembly strategy to encourage the use of public transport and support economic growth through improved bus links.

Construction of the first bus lane in the Vale on Cardiff Road between Eastbrook in Dinas Powys and the Merrie Harrier in Llandough is now well under way.

Promoted by the Vale Council and the South East Wales Transport Alliance (Sewta) and funded by the Welsh Assembly, the scheme includes a three-metre wide bus lane plus a shared cycle and footway.

The bus lane is intended to give preference to buses travelling towards Cardiff over other vehicles queuing on the approach to the Merrie Harrier junction during peak periods.

The Vale cabinet member for planning and transportation Coun Jeff James, who is also chair of Sewta, said: "I am delighted that, after a number of years promoting this scheme, that work has now commenced on site.

"The bus lane, which will also provide cycle and pedestrian facilities, will help to encourage more people to move from their cars and try either public transport or cycling, reduce congestion and promote healthier travel."

The Vale's operational manager for engineering design and procurement, Paul Gay, said: "The initial phase of the contract will comprise the construction of the proposed new cycleway and footway within the adjoining land to the north of Cardiff Road. Footway access will be maintained while works to the bus lane continue."

He stressed: "The council is working closely with the contractor (Morrison Construction Ltd) to minimise disruption to traffic caused as a result of the works."

ABOVE:
Land to the left of the road going out of Dinas Powys, in the direction of Llandough, is being used a part of a scheme to create an extra lane for buses.

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR
Your local correspondent is Patricia Bevan-Morgan (01656) 880418

AT the PACT meeting held in the church hall on April 7, the parking outside the cafe and Post Office at Ogmore-by-Sea was discussed.

Parking cones and notices are to continue for the time being at the entrance from the main road, Ogmore-by-Sea, to the Rivermouth car park. Speed bumps are to be installed at agreed positions in the car park.

MOTHER'S UNION

St Bride's Mother's Union met for their monthly meeting when the guest speaker was Mike Clubb, who told, with film, of the history of Island Farm, and of 'The Great Escape' from there. It was a most interesting evening.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

At the Community Council meeting held on April 12 at the church hall, it was resolved to write to the Vale Council regarding the quality of air in the area.

A letter is so be sent to the Vale Council regarding the parking of 4x4 cars on grass on the Common after removing restricting stones and posts between the cattle grid Ogmore-by-Sea and Little West Southerndown.

The Sports Pavilion's post code is CF32 0SJ and will be posted on the notice board.

The new PCSO, Serena James who is based in Cowbridge, submitted a crime report for the area covering the period from March 1 to April 9.

Incidents of note were: a male given a warning for drugs at Southerdown; one shed burglary in Wick; one attempted burglary at Southerndown; theft of copper piping from the substation in Ogmore-by-Sea; theft of a mobile phone from a bag at St Brides Major; three incidents of criminal damage to vehicles in St Brides Major; an incident involving three dogs at Southerdown.

There is to be a report to the Vale Council regarding the bad condition of the road surface on the way to the recycling amenities site at Llandow. Potholes and the condition of the B4524 and the B4265 have also been noted.

There were complaints from members of the public regarding the dangerous and untidy water channels cut through roadway verges in the community area.

SPONSORED WALK

There will be a sponsored walk in aid of Children in Distress on Monday, May 3, starting at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major. Sponsorship forms are available from Sheila at the Vicarage, St Brides Major.

FRIENDS

Friends of the Heritage coastline will be holding their annual general meeting at the Seamouth centre on May 9 at 2.30pm.

Christian Aid concert

ZOAR Presbyterian Church, Bonvilston, invite you to join them on Friday, May 7, at 7.30pm for an evening of light musical entertainment with the Minnesingers.

This male chorus of 18 singers has successfully performed at the Jersey Eisteddfod, and also given concerts in Nantes and Nuremberg. All proceeds to Christian Aid.

Tickets at £5 are available from the village shop, Bonvilston or telephone 01446 781309.

What's in store for WI members

ST NICHOLAS WI

ON a lovely spring evening, members of St Nicholas women's Institute met for the April meeting in the village hall.

'Department stores' was the speaker's subject. which proved to be enlightening and very interesting.

The illustrated talk was given by Mr Alan Underhill, who led us through the development of department stores from the early part of the last century to more recent times.

Mr Underhill shared with us his wealth of knowledge on the subject, and his experiences of working in stores in different parts of Britain.

Refreshments were served, followed by the business meeting. Deposits for the forthcoming trip to Bath and the American Museum were collected.

Mrs Jen Hayes won the monthly competition.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 6, at 7pm. New members and visitors are always welcome.

'The wonder of willow'

LLANBLETHIAN WI

APRIL'S meeting took place in the town hall, due to refurbishment of Llanblethian church hall.

Members who took part in the table tennis day last month were enthusiastic about it, and there was a discussion about the possibility of acquiring one for keep-fit purposes.

The new craft group is to meet for the first time in Llanblethian church on April 27 at 10am – more details available on the day.

The craft of willow weaving was demonstrated by Clare Revera and Mel Bastier, who told us a little bit about the technique and uses of woven willow, and demonstrated the making of a simple bird feeder.

Most British willow is grown in the Somerset levels – this year's harvest has just finished. After 50 years in decline, the industry is fortunately taking a turn for the better, and now due to the renewed popularity of this material, demand for native willows exceeds the supply and more is being planted every year.

This is a real success story as, second only to the oak, willow is most important to our native wildlife. We all joined in and made bird feeders and the evening was voted a real success.

This month's competition on behalf of Associated Countrywomen of the World was won by Connie Sanders with her 'porch pooch'.

The monthly meeting will be held in the Lesser Hall in Cowbridge Town Hall until further notice.

Next month is our resolutions meeting and we'll wash it down with Sangria, so come along and see how the aims of the Women's Institute are formed.

One step ahead of competition!

ST HILARY WI

THE monthly meeting was held on April 13 in St Hilary village hall and after the usual business, a fun time was had by all in a light-hearted indoor curling competition.

A demonstration was given by Barbara Gay and Sue Knight, who were 'one step ahead' of everyone else, having attended a taster session last year!

The curling equipment was borrowed from Glamorgan WI headquarters and proved to be a great success.

After much hilarity, the evening concluded with delicious refreshments provided by Kay Heath and Olive Church.

The next meeting will be held on May 11 when this year's resolution will be discussed. A quiche supper will be provided by the committee.

COMMUNITY NEWS
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL
Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Mrs Peggy Anstee

FAMILY, friends and former neighbours attended the funeral of the late Mrs Peggy Anstee (98), which took place on Friday, April 16, at the Mid Glamorgan Crematorium, Coychurch.

Peggy had lived in the village of Treoes from 1960 until she emigrated to Canada to live with her daughter some 10 years ago.

I think the call of Wales became too strong for her and she returned to Treoes and her many friends, but sadly, things had changed and her home became a Bridgend nursing home.

She was still able to visit her friends in the village, making a surprise visit to the Young at Heart Club.

Peggy began her working life in the nursing profession, but gave it up to be a full time mother. Her daughter, Marian, plans to return to her home in Canada this weekend, that is, if the ash clouds have abated.

St Mary Hill Church 100 Club

WINNERS of the Easter draw were:

Mrs B Powell, Mr R Howells, Mr J Hopkins, Mrs S Evans and Miss G Harries. The next draw will take place in June.

Well done!

CONGRATULATIONS to 16-tear-old Megan Thomas of Brynowel Farm, St Mary Hill, who has cleaned St Mary Hill Church for the past four months as part of her commitment to the community through the Welsh Baccalaureate.

Young at Heart Club

A WARM welcome was extended to club member Gordon Lewis on his return to the club – he has had a very tough time over the past few months.

Members were also pleased to see Terry Jones on his return to club meetings.

Treoes resident, Mr Ken Kemp, will hopefully be home soon following his long stay in the Princess of Wales hospital.

Planning applications

Full planning permission for change of use from former milking parlour to residential, refurbishment and extension to existing farm house at Persondy Farm, Treoes.

The council is still waiting for the plans to be completed for the tennis court area at Treoes.

There is an appeal by Mr Brian Meek, on a proposed detached dwelling to replace existing warehouse at Tresaeson House Yard, St Mary Hill.

Community hall

LLANGAN and St Mary Hill Community Hall is hosting a pub night of live acoustic music on May 15.

All ages are welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult.

Dates to note

THURSDAY, May 6 – a violin concerto will take place at Ewenny Priory at 7.30pm, tickets £10.

On May 27, the St Donats Chamber choir will perform, again the venue will be Ewenny Priory, tickets £10.

Read your GEM online: *www.cowbridge-today.co.uk* or *llantwit-major-today.co.uk*

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Barry choir is thanked for their charity work

THE Vale Mayor, Coun Emlyn Williams, has hosted a reception to thank Barry Male Voice Choir members for their support during his year of office.

The support included an appearance, along with the Barry Island Junior School Choir, at a charity concert, hosted by Coun Williams, at Art Central, Barry.

During a buffet reception at Barry Town Hall, Coun Williams, accompanied by the mayoress, his wife Joan, paid tribute to the choir on their proud 108-year history, and for their 'good work', as a registered charity, within the community.

He noted that, from humble beginnings as a party of 12 men, the choir grew in number and peaked at 108 in 1913. Following considerable success in competitions, the choir's emphasis has changed in recent years to supporting a range of charities and organisations with fundraising concerts.

The choir has also enjoyed numerous overseas visits and built up special links with the Vale's twin town of Rheinfelden in Germany.

Forthcoming concerts include an appearance at The Glanfa, Wales Millennium Centre, on April 22 (tonight), and a gala of massed male choirs at St David's Hall, Cardiff, on May 8.

The choir is always on the lookout for new members and current rehearsals are held in the Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Street, on Monday and Thursday (7.30pm-9.30pm). Further information from secretary John Rees Davies on 01446 746387.

ABOVE: Vale Mayor Coun Emlyn Williams and the mayoress, his wife Joan, hosted a special 'thank you' reception for the Barry Male Voice Choir.

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NEWS FROM PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

From Cwrt-y-Gollen in the glorious sun and up to Sugar Loaf Mountain

LEADER Barrie Mortimer had a surprise when cabin fever and the promise of a much needed sunny day brought out 17 walkers, even though they were warned they would be walking from the valley bottom to the top of Sugar Loaf Mountain.

This stands at 596 metres and one keen walker (who has walked with Barrie before) came all the way from Lampeter.

They began from the British Army training camp at Cwrt-y-Gollen, which is situated near the A40 just west of Crickhowell or Crug Hywel. It took its name from the Iron Age hill fort situated on the flat-topped hill above the village, which in English is known as Table Mountain.

Setting off, they meandered up a steep footpath through the training camp, with Ministry of Defence signs either side of them warning them to stay on the path, and further on stopped at Millbrook Bridge to admire a very gnarled oak tree, purported to be at least 800 years' old.

Then the real climbing began as they made their way uphill towards the wooded Cwm Gwenffrwyd, where they eagerly stopped for some liquid refreshment. As they made their way further uphill, towering above them was their intended target, Sugar Loaf Mountain, and slightly daunted, the group stopped for coffee just above the cwm.

By now, the sunshine had warmed up the temperature and several walkers stopped to unzip the bottoms of walking trousers to make shorts, in an attempt to cool off, which hasn't happened for some time!

A very long and hard climb was taken gradually and eventually the group reached the top of the mountain.

Mynydd Pen-y-Fal, or Y Fal as the Sugar Loaf is known, stands overlooking Abergavenny and from its summit there are fantastic views over the Black Mountains, Brecon Beacons and even as far as the Bristol Channel.

The group were glad to rest in the sunshine and enjoy the hazy long distance views and their lunch, but were joined by lots of people, including sweaty runners in a challenge race that was in full swing – with runners of all ages taking part.

Refreshed, the group started to descend eastwards to the picturesque village of Llangenny, which sits beside the fast-flowing Grwyne Fawr River.

This river joins up with its tributary, the Grwyne Fechan, higher up the valley near Llanbedr and they flow southwards as the Grwyne Fawr River through the small village of Llangenny, to join the River Usk at the bottom of the valley.

Passing the old oak tree once again, this time some five and a half hours later, they made their weary way back to the start, after an enjoyable but hard day's walking.

On April 24, meet at 10am at the Barry Waterfront for an 8-mile moderate walk at Ystradowen; contact Rachel on 01446 410545.

On April 25, meet at 9am at the Barry Waterfront for a 10-mile moderate walk at south Gower; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

The midweek walk on April 27 will leave Cogan Leisure Centre at 9.30am for an eight-mile moderate walk at Llandegfedd and hopefully some bluebells; contact Anne on 029 2070 0829.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice. For other groups' walks log onto www.ramblers.org.uk

JOY STRANGWARD

Match in the mud raises Help for Heroes cash

ABOVE: Steven Cottrell, the president of South Wales Police RFC, presents a cheque to Stuart and Alison Elson.

AS recently reported in The GEM, teams from the South Wales Police and the Welsh Guards recently played a charity match in aid of the Help for Heroes charity.

The match, which was played at the Police's Waterton Cross home, was also in memory of Lance Corporal Dane Elson, who was killed in Afghanistan while serving with the Welsh Guards.

Dane, who came from Pencoed, had played rugby for both the Police and the guards.

In fact, his father, Stuart, turned out for the Police team on a muddy night – as can be seen from the presentation photo above.

The match raised £700 for the Help the Heroes charity.

Roadworks report

Plassey street, junctions with Glebe Street, Ludlow Lane, Ludlow Street and Arcott Street, Penarth – carriageway width restrictions.
Pontypridd Street - junction with Mount Pleasant – footway restriction in place.
Windsor Road, Penarth at the Plassey Street roundabout to the junction of Andrew Road, Cogan – temporary traffic control.
A4055 - Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys - Merrie Harrier junction – temporary traffic control.
Gladstone Road Bridge to the Waterfront – temporary traffic control.
Station Road, Rhoose – road closure.

Pupils get a high-tec head start!

Children at Bute Cottage Nursery School in Penarth enjoy a Skype link comparing Eco songs with pupils at the town's Fairfield Primary School.

CHILDREN at Bute Cottage Nursery School in Penarth are at the forefront of using information and communications technology (ICT) to enhance their work.

The nursery has been awarded the prestigious ICT Mark by Becta, the government-funded body responsible for promoting the use of ICT in Britain's schools and colleges.

The award recognises the school's success in developing the use of ICT in both administration and across the curriculum.

ICT mark assessor Emma Vaughan said: "The breadth and range of ICT is outstanding and the level of independence and pupil attitudes are excellent."

Jendy Hillier, of the Vale Council school improvement service, said: "The council is determined that all local children will have the best opportunity to excel in the jobs market of the future. This demonstrates the excellent ICT management and teaching that is taking place in local schools."

Headteacher Ceri Hoffrock, commented: "We are delighted to be awarded the ICT Mark. It recognises our positive approach to ICT and the benefits it is bringing to our children. We believe that ICT can be used in every aspect of learning and that it is essential our children are equipped for the modern world."

Planning for the future in Wales – while facing difficult choices

SUPPORTING our front-line public services to meet the needs and priorities of the people of Wales – this was the theme of my speech to local authority chief executives and their partners last week as the Minister for Finance for Wales.

I said that the challenge we all face in sustaining public services over the coming months and years is probably as tough as it comes.

Delivering an effective response will be a test for us all in the public sector, and we have to be clear about our priorities to help recover from the recession, foster our economic prospects and meet social needs.

Our commitment to social justice and equality underpins our determination to support our Welsh Assembly Government universal budgets such as concessionary fares. Our concessionary bus travel scheme for disabled people, their carers and the over-60s has more than 620,000 free Smartcards now in circulation.

This means that more than a fifth of the population in Wales are able to travel free of charge at any time of the day.

A recent review demonstrated that the scheme continues to provide value for money and we will not be considering any changes to eligibility at this time.

I also said we have a responsibility to look at all our public spending and put in place measures to save money, including improving the way we procure services in the public sector.

To give two examples, we now have an Xchange Wales trading hub within procurement, and a Public Sector Broadband Aggregation (PSBA) programme within ICT.

These are technical solutions that deliver greater efficiency, but they can also help in a wider range of ways to drive better collaboration and partnership across the public sector, and benefit the businesses we procure services from in the public and private sectors.

We know there are many examples of good practice in how we deliver public services across Wales – in housing, social services and health and my message to public bodies is that they need to 'adopt or justify' these ways of working.

There is a lot of groundbreaking work already taking place that we all need to learn from, especially on 'joining up' services around the citizen.

This is particularly important in improving services such as access to occupational therapy and disabled facilities grants for disabled people to enable them to remain independent in their own homes. This is certainly an issue raised regularly in my surgeries and on the doorstep.

We also need to learn from the new ways in which services are being provided across health and social care, with a great example in the Gwent Frailty project, which is focused on the needs of the frail and elderly across five local authorities in the Gwent area.

There are many examples of 'pooled budgets' across the NHS and social services in Wales, with 'joint staff appointments' making an impact. The key point I was making last week was the need to involve the people who use and work in our public services to understand what works best, and learn from their skills and experiences.

I certainly learn a great deal from my constituents, and those who work at the sharp end in our services can also tell us what the priorities are to enable them to do their jobs effectively.

In Wales, there is strong enduring support for our public services and a desire to protect them, but also to improve them. We need to pull together to get the solutions right, as we face these difficult times for the public purse.

In his recent book *Ill fares the land*, Professor Tony Judt reminds us that 'We take for granted the institutions, legislation, services and rights that we have inherited from the great age of 20th Century reform'.

The NHS is the greatest testament to those reforms and with the sun shining over King's Square last Saturday, the 203 Welsh Field Hospital Volunteers received a warm welcome from the crowds, as well as the civic dignatories who gathered in Barry, to applaud their courage and commitment, over and above their day-to-day work in the NHS in Wales.

We must value that sense of community and commitment to public service we shared as we walked together through Barry on Saturday with the volunteers and the British Legion. We must reflect those values in the decisions made in Government.

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by ***Jane Hutt AM***
(Minister for Business and Budget)

Jane Hutt with Col Kevin Davies of the Welsh Medics.

PACT meetings

COLWINSTON Cuppa With a Copper, The Sycamore Tree public house on April 24 at 1pm.

LLANTWIT MAJOR PACT, local leisure centre on May 4 at 7pm.

SULLY PACT, Jubilee Hall on April 29 at 7pm.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Physic Garden plant sale

COWBRIDGE Physic Garden stages its annual plan sale on the terrace at Old Hall, Cowbridge, on Saturday, April 24 (10.30am - 3.30pm).

A wide variety of flowers and vegetables will be on sale, together with a raffle stall selling umbrellas and cards. Local nurserymen will be adding their wares and advice.

Cowbridge Physic Garden is wholly maintained and managed by volunteers.

Public support for this fund-raiser is deeply valued and appreciated.

A Cowbridge Physic Garden Event

Plant Sale

Old Hall Gardens

Saturday April 24 (10.30am-3.30pm)

A wide variety of spring and summer plants will be on sale, plus further choices from local nurserymen.

Raffle stall, cards umbrellas and other gifts available.

Cowbridge Physic Garden is wholly managed and maintained by volunteers. Public support for the cause is deeply valued.

www.cowbridgephysicgarden.org.uk

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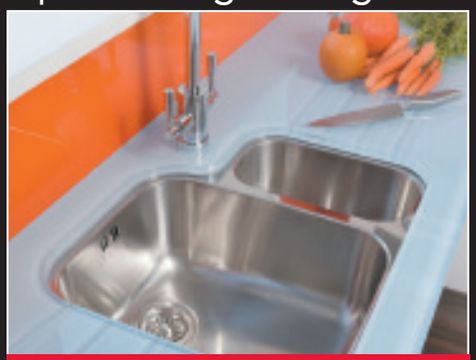

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TV CHAT WITH A TONGUE-TIED LITTLE BOY!

I WOULD like to thank you for printing my recent letters; not only is it a great thrill to see them in print, but it seems to have brought me some new friends who appear to find them interesting.

Several years ago, you were instrumental in getting me the great honour of being on TV during the 'Children in Need' campaign.

For years I used to dress large baby dolls and give them to charity to raffle. I can't quite remember the date, but I was in my 80s and was interviewed with a little boy as the oldest and youngest to help in Cowbridge!

It was a wonderful experience never to be forgotten! It was a double experience because we were placed together in front of the 'hidden' camera and told to answer the questionnaire we were given.

I was first, then the little boy – but unfortunately, he became tongue-tied and couldn't speak! They tried three times and were about to give up, when I had an idea.

All I did was turn to him and ask his name. He answered quite clearly so I asked him what he had done for Children in Need? The people on the other side of the camera gave me the thumbs up to carry on.

He was perfectly happy to chat to me. I had his questionnaire on my lap and all went well.

I had a wonderful evening and had you to thank. What lovely memories!

Eve Balfour,
Llanblethian

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

Another rare visitor makes its way into a rural garden

I'VE followed with interest recent letters in The GEM regarding sightings of a Red Kite around the Cowbridge area.

Last summer, I spent a very enjoyable couple of hours at the Red Kite feeding station near Rhayader in Powys.

Before commencing the spreading of the meat outside the hides, we were informed that as many as 300 kites can turn up for the banquet.

I took this figure with a pinch of salt since it's not that many years ago that Wales only had one breeding pair.

However, the farmer was proved right when soon the sky was thick with these beautiful birds – just like a scene from Hitchcock's famous movie.

I don't think so many large birds can all live in that locality and so many of them must travel quite a distance each day to feast.

My reason for writing is to tell your readers about another rare bird that's visiting the Cowbridge area. For the last month or so, a Peregrine Falcon has been coming into my rural garden.

Sometimes it sits on the fence near to my kitchen window, and other times it appears to harass small birds that are inside the bushes.

We also have a pair of wood pigeons that feed off the grass under our hanging bird feeders. I hope they're not on its menu.

Yesterday, it was trying to get inside a bush as if to get at sparrows perching in there.

I hurried to get my camera to take some photos, but shooting through the kitchen window from a distance of 12 metres or so the photos are not that good – but it's definitely a Peregrine because with my binoculars I've had super views of it.

What I'd like to know, if any of your readers can help me in this – where around Cowbridge could it nest, as I associate Peregrines with cliffs or high buildings.

I've omitted my address on purpose in case there are any pigeon fanciers out there who may feel threatened by its visits.

However, if any true bird watchers would like more information, I would be glad to help out via your letters page.

Michael Carpenter

We welcome your news and views. Please email them to the Editorial Department at:
ggem@internet-today.co.uk

Vale Heritage Centre Coalition to hold AGM

FOLLOWING the Vale of Glamorgan scrutiny committee's agreement to recommend the commissioning of a feasibility study to establish a Heritage Centre for the Vale sited in Barry, the Vale Heritage Centre Coalition will be holding its first annual general meeting to establish a committee and elect officers on Tuesday, May 4.

This is another important step for this group, which is gathering a powerful momentum in its worthy ambition.

The meeting will take place in Committee Room 1, Vale of Glamorgan Council Offices, Holton Road, Barry.

The meeting begins at 7pm. It is a public event and interested parties are invited.

Dr Jonathan Hicks,
Barry

Jury service ban for over-70s

THE age discrimination task group of The Older People's Strategy Forum have tirelessly campaigned to the Ministry of Justice, on the issue of people over the age of 70 being barred from jury service.

There appears to be no logical explanation as to why this is so, and the forum feel it is an outdated piece of legislation, and currently excludes many people who would be competent to sit as jurors.

The Ministry of Justice have, from March 16, launched a consultation on raising the upper age limit for jury service.

Please have your say on this important issue. Details on how you can express your views to the Ministry of Justice can be found on the forum's website at *www.valeopf.org.uk*

Jane Weldon
(Age discrimination task group member, Vale OPF)

Good for the garden!

I WAS just reading the letters concerning the horse poo. When I was a child, I lived in the country where there were always farmers going past my house with horse-drawn hay carts.

If the horses did a poo by our house, my mother would be out straightaway with bucket and shovel to get it for her garden. I am still alive so it never did us any harm!

Mrs Olive Farmer,
Barry

'All manure has dangers'

THE recent letter by Viv Pritchard about horse poo reminded me that in all animal manure, dangers of some sort lurk.

During the First World War, it was estimated that two million horses died. One of the warnings to the soldiers was "do not let the horse tread on your feet" because the manure, being mixed with earth, contained the deadly spores of gas gangrene from which many soldiers died.

All manure is a living bundle of bacteria and toxins and should be recycled back into the earth in a natural way – depending from which animal too – if humans cultivate the soil.

Having lived on a farm where the lady of the house never wore shoes and showed me her marvellous skin, brought about, she claimed, by walking into the various manures the farm generated, I shuddered, but no harm ever came to her!

John Coduri,
Pontypridd

Jane Hutt AM

Labour Assembly Member for the Vale of Glamorgan

If you would like to attend one of Jane's surgeries in the Vale, please contact the constituency office at:

115, High Street Barry, CF62 7DT
Tel: 01446 740981
Email: jane.hutt@wales.gov.uk

Next surgery: **Saturday April 30th at 115 High Street, Barry, CF62 7DT from 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm**

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Can you have a 'healthy' divorce?

DURING a divorce it feels like everything is changing: your home life, daily routine, and, even your sense of identity.

It's a time of emotional, financial and practical upheaval. You need to make important decisions, often when you feel least able to. And you may be continuing to work, care for children and generally doing your best to carry on as normal.

In this difficult situation, is it possible to have a 'healthy' divorce? Kathryn McTaggart of family solicitors Woolley & Co suggests it is, by following this four point plan:

1. Revenge... A dish best left out of legal proceedings.

The law is, above all things, practical and dispassionate. Keep looking at the bigger picture. If your ex is being completely unreasonable, resist the temptation to stoop to their level.

Trust your family lawyer to be firm where necessary and let them know if you feel bullied or powerless so they can redress the balance fairly. Don't underestimate the satisfaction that will come when you look back in the knowledge that you behaved with restraint and dignity. Sometimes the best 'revenge' is showing someone how far you have moved on.

2. Keep it civil, for the sake of the children.

Separating couples may agree on very little, but they both want the best for their children. Accepting that you have an ongoing relationship with your child's other parent helps.

Keep children informed, jointly if possible, in an age appropriate way and give them lots of reassurance. Just because children are not physically in the middle of an argument, it does not mean that they are not feeling its effects. They need both of you at this time more than ever.

3. Why can't they just move on?

Divorcing spouses go through different stages, including denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. Whilst you may have been planning to leave your spouse for some time they may not have had time to come to terms with what living without you will mean. Trust his or her lawyer, together with your ex's family and friends, to move things along. Forcing the pace is often counterproductive and costly.

4. Forget the stiff upper lip (sometimes).

Don't be afraid to ask for support from friends, family, your doctor, church, a divorce coach or counsellor if you are struggling.

It is natural to feel angry, out of control, disappointed, hurt and resentful but clear heads make better decisions. Your family lawyer will be experienced in working with you whilst you experience these emotions but he or she will not be a trained counsellor. Make sure you get the best legal and emotional advice you can.

For help with the legal aspects of divorce and relationship breakdown, call Kathryn McTaggart on 0845 680 2507 (local rate) or email Kathryn.McTaggart@family-lawfirm.co.uk

Woolley & Co is a member of the Law Society and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority, registration number is 223060

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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (TRINITY STREET, BARRY) (DISABLED PERSONS PARKING PLACE) (VARIATION) ORDER 2010

Notice is given that the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under sections 45, 46 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) and pursuant to Part IV of Schedule 9 and of all other enabling powers proposes to make an Order, the general effect of which is to remove a disabled persons parking place at the location specified in the Schedule below.

Full details of the proposals, may be inspected at the address shown below during normal office hours and any objections you may have to this proposal must be submitted to the Head of Visible Services (Ref.IF605) in writing by 13th May 2010 and must contain the grounds upon which you object.

3. Persons objecting to the proposed Order are advised that in view of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 this Council is legally obliged to make any comments received in response to the proposed Order open to public inspection.

SCHEDULE

The Vale of Glamorgan Council (Various Locations, Barry) (Disabled Persons Parking Places) (No.1) Order 2006, the following paragraph to be deleted from the Schedule:

Trinity Street, Barry

On its south-western side from a point approximately 7 metres south-east of its junction with the south-eastern side of Porthkerry Road, south-eastwards for a distance of 6.6 metres.

Dated this 22nd day of April 2010

M. Punter,
Head of Visible Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

GORCHYMYN CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG (TRINITY STREET, Y BARRI) (AMRYWIO) (MANNAU PARCIO AR GYFER POBL ANABL) 2010

Hysbysir trwy hyn y bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan adrannau 45, 46 a 53 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 (ddiwygiedig) ac yn unol â Rhan IV Atodlen 9 a phob p?er galluogi arall, yn gwneud Gorchymyn er mwyn symud man parcio ar gyfer pobl anabl o'r lle sydd wedi'i nodi yn yr Atodlen isod.

Cewch weld y cynigion llawn yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa. Dylech gyfeirio unrhyw wrthwynebiad sydd gennych i'r cynnig i Bennaeth Gwasanaethau Gweladwy (Cyf.IF605) ar ffurf llythyr erbyn 13 Mai 2010 gan egluro'ch rhesymau dros ei wrthwynebu.

3. Os oes gennych wrthwynebiad i'r Gorchymyn, cofiwch fod gan y cyhoedd hawl o dan Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol (Hawl i Wybodaeth) 1985 i weld unrhyw sylwadau sy'n cael eu gwneud, a bod dyletswydd gyfreithiol ar y cyngor i ddarparu ar gyfer hynny.

ATODLEN

Gorchymyn Cyngor Bro Morgannwg (Lleoliadau Amrywiol yn y Barri) (Mannau Parcio ar gyfer Pobl Anabl) (1) 2006.

Dilëwch y paragraff canlynol o'r atodlen:-

Trinity Street, y Barri

Ar ei hochr dde-orllewinol o fan sydd ryw 7 medr i'r de-ddwyrain o'r gyffordd ag ochr dde-ddwyreiniol Porthkerry Road, am 6.6 medr i gyfeiriad y de-ddwyrain.

Dyddiedig 22 Ebrill 2010

M. Punter,
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Gweladwy
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Team show jumping series reaches climax at equestrian centre

LEFT: Lead rein team - winning team Talygarn - Abi Vukashin, Olivia Murray, Ashton Newton (Gilfach), Olivia Davies (Ely).

THE finals for the team jumping series were held recently at Talygarn Equestrian Centre.

There were four team jumping events over the winter, with five classes in each event. Teams that are placed score points, with prizes in April for the winners.

Teams took part, in the main, from Llangeinor Pony Club, Glamorgan Pony Club, Millbrook Riding Club, Mynydd Riding Club and Talygarn.

This year, Talygarn did exceptionally well, winning the series in four out of five classes, with Glamorgan Pony Club winning the other. All the riders in the Talygarn teams are from the riding school, with a few former riding school clients making up the numbers.

Talygarn had 10 teams taking part, and all picked up places and wins throughout the series. Prizes of hat and boot bags and grooming bags were given out to the winning teams.

Day out will raise cash for Bridgend Samaritans

LLANTWIT Major Friends of Bridgend Samaritans have organised their first fundraising coach trip of the year to Worcester on Saturday, May 15.

Tickets are £15 each, and details are available from Julie Robinson on 01446 796471.

Julie's work on behalf of Bridgend Samaritans was recently recognised when she received a Vale Women's Business Network (VWBN) 'Spirit of Giving' award.

LEFT: Julie Robinson being presented with her VWBN 'Spirit of Giving' award by Jane Hutt AM at the Senedd.

COMMUNITY NEWS

LLANBETHERY & LLANCARFAN
Your community correspondents are Sam & Patsie Smith on (01446) 751448

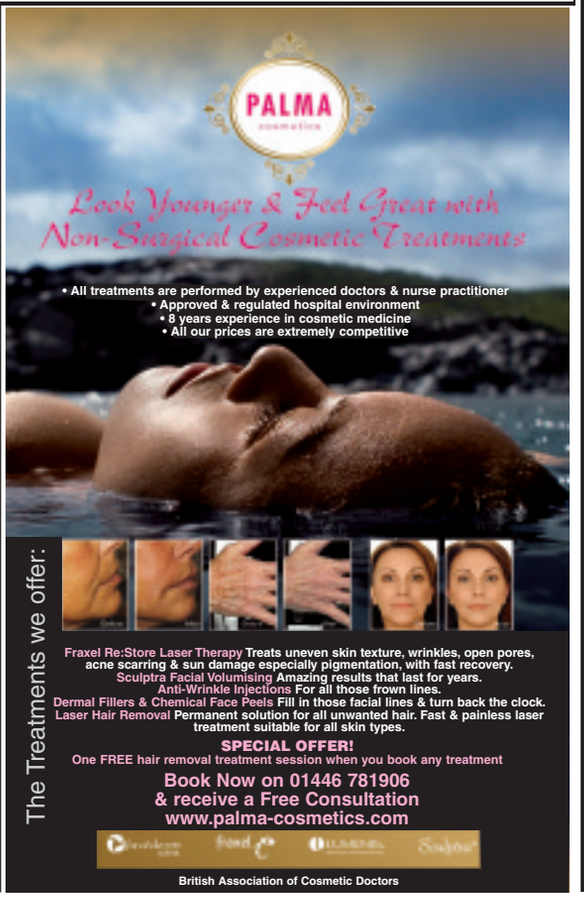
Curry night

A REMINDER that Llancarfan Cricket Club has announced that they are holding a curry night at the Fox and Hounds on Thursday, April 29 at 7.30pm.

All are welcome and tickets are available either from Sue at the Fox or Rob John on 01446 710376.

Jumble sale

THE ever-popular Tuesday club jumble sale is coming up on Saturday, April 24 in the village community hall, starting at 1.30pm – all proceeds are in aid of local charities.



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JADE
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SERENE
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One-day 'sales offer' with sting in the tail

LOCAL Trading Standards officers are investigating complaints by residents that they were misled into spending thousands of pounds at one-day sales events.

One resident claimed she was offered a special price of £1 for a china dinner set by a company only for it to be raised to almost £3,000 afterwards to have it personalised.

She said: "I was cold-called on the telephone by a company who said they would be at a local hotel venue, selling for one day only, and asked me if I'd like to attend.

"When I attended, they were very professional and persuasive. I ended up buying the goods and agreeing to have them engraved with my initials. The company said I could still cancel within seven days if I changed my mind.

"As soon as I got home, I had a bad feeling so decided to cancel but the company refused saying they'd already started to personalise the goods, even though it was within the seven-day cooling off period, and I would have to pay the full £3,000.

"I'm not the sort of person to be tricked easily, but the company managed to mislead me, convincing me to sign up to something I didn't want because it seemed like such a bargain."

Vale principal trading officer Simon Wilkinson urged people to be very careful of sales events operating on a 'here today and gone tomorrow' basis.

"If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is, so don't part with your money or sign documents on the spur of the moment," he said.

If you have been misled into buying goods and would like help from trading standards, contact Consumer Direct Wales on 08454 040506.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Coffee morning

A COFFEE morning with stalls will be held at Albert Road Methodist Church (Penarth) on Saturday, May 1, 10am-12noon.

Stalls include cakes, books, bric-a-brac, toiletries, and there will also be a raffle. Admission (50p) includes tea, coffee and biscuits. All proceeds go towards church funds.

THE 'HOMES4U FAMILY' IS JOINED BY NEW MEMBER

RIGHT: Signing the United Welsh Housing Association/Homes4U agreement are seated: Karen Thomas, head of neighbourhood, United Welsh HA, and Coun Paul Church. Standing (from left): Alan Morgan, managing director, Hafod HA; Tony Whittaker, chief executive, United Welsh HA; Elgar Lewis, chairman, Hafod HA; Paul Roberts, chief executive, Newydd HA; Mike Ingram, Vale Council operational manager (public sector housing), and Chris Walton, housing manager, Wales and West HA.

A FOURTH housing association has joined the Vale Council's Homes4U scheme.

Since its launch in June 2003, when the Vale became the first local authority in Wales to introduce choice-based lettings by advertising all its empty homes in local newspapers, Homes4U has evolved into a multi-landlord partnership, with new 'recruits,' United Welsh, joining existing partners – the Newydd, Hafod and Wales and West housing associations.

All the partners' vacant properties are advertised fortnightly alongside vacant council homes. People who register for housing only have to complete one application form, and are able to bid for any homes advertised under the Homes4U banner.

The Vale Council cabinet member for housing and community safety, Coun Paul Church said: "The Vale Council continues to establish itself as a centre for innovation and improvement and, over the last six years, Homes4U has provided an improved performance for our partners and a greater choice for applicants.

"The partnership agreement between ourselves and United Welsh is a further step towards providing a comprehensive access to housing and housing advice service to tenants of the council and its housing association partners.

"One of the great advantages of this partnership is that residents have one point of contact for housing allocation enquiries, rather than the myriad of forms that previously existed.

"Homes4U continues to improve and the addition of United Welsh will strengthen already excellent working relationships."

Councillor's surgery

COUN Ray Thomas will hold a surgery at the Treoes Community Centre, Treoes, on Saturday, April 24 from 110.30am-1pm.

No appointment is necessary.

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Vale candidates' debate climate change matters

Left to right: Rhodri Thomas – Green Party, Alun Cairns – Conservative, Kevin Mahoney – UKIP, Ian Johnson – Plaid Cymru, Alana Davies – Labour, Eluned Parrott – Liberal Democrat, John Harrold – Christian Party of Wales.

EARLIER this month, seven parliamentary candidates for the marginal constituency of the Vale of Glamorgan were invited to Tabernacle, Barry, to discuss climate change.

The event was organised by Christian Aid on behalf of 'Ask the Climate Question', a coalition of environmental and international development agencies.

A Christian Aid spokeswoman said: "This was the first of three similar events taking place in Wales over the next few weeks, and it was a very encouraging start to the campaign.

"The event drew a lively and thoughtful crowd of 60, from various environmental and faith backgrounds. Questions ranged from commitment to reducing carbon emissions, to finance for developing countries, and more local issues such as plans for a local biomass plant on Barry dockland."

She continued: "As well as referring to party policies, the candidates drew on personal experiences, giving examples of personal action and commitment on a local level, rousing much laughter and applause. The general consensus was that action needs to be taken; there will need to be a shift away from a consumer mindset; that investment in research to help local, national and international development is essential."

The event's chair, Jeff Williams, head of Christian Aid Wales, said: "I would like to thank the candidates for coming to the event and for their readiness to answer questions. This is an urgent topic which is already affecting hundreds of thousands of people in the world's developing countries and it vital that it is addressed in the next government."

A show of hands at end of the meeting revealed that an overwhelming majority of the audience were convinced that climate change is a serious issue which needs to be addressed and acted upon.

To find out more about the campaign, visit www.asktheclimatequestion.org.uk

Airport and police staff work together for troops abroad

POLICE officers and staff from Barry police station, and staff from Cardiff Airport, have been collecting non-perishable foods, items of clothing and small gifts for distribution to soldiers serving in Afghanistan.

Just a few weeks ago, Vale of Glamorgan Neighbourhood Police Constable Gareth Holmes started a collection among his colleagues in Barry police station to put together small parcels of useful gifts to send out to troops serving in Afghanistan.

At the same time, Gareth's neighbour, Lisa Morgan and her colleague Marion Williams, who both work at Cardiff Airport, decided to join in and start a collection among their fellow members of staff.

This week the first delivery of more than 30 shoe box-sized parcels was despatched to troops serving on the front line.

PC Holmes said: "I have been overwhelmed by the support we have received for this, both here in Barry police station as well as at the Airport. We have taken advice on the type of things that most of the troops appreciate and what is possible to send out to them.

"These range from pot noodles to socks and books to playing cards. We have already been able to fill more than 30 boxes which are now on their way to the troops in Afghanistan.

"I would like to thank everyone at Barry police station and at the airport who has supported us so far and we are already collecting for our second delivery."

Lisa Morgan (right) and Marion Williams, pictured with PC Gareth Holmes and some of the parcels bound for Afghanistan.

The bees get active as the sun comes out

NEWS FROM THE FONMON APIARY

FAIR weather is certainly most welcome, not only to the bees, but also the beekeeper.

An in-depth examination of all the hives (Fonmon and Dyffryn) has been carried out and all looks well.

Winter and, of course, the ravages of the varroa mite has reduced Fonmon apiary to five hives (seven were on site before winter set in) while the three hives at Dyffryn have survived unscathed.

Throughout the winter months, the mite population has been checked on a regular basis. Mites were present on every occasion that these checks were carried out.

Spring has truly sprung, much forage is now available to the bees and colony activity is stepping up a gear. The queens have responded and colony expansion is now well under way.

The downside of this increase, of course, is that the varroa has a life cycle perfectly in tune with that of the bee, and their numbers will rise accordingly.

For my part, we are certainly not winning the battle against the mite. Each year we knock back their numbers, and as we have no hope of completely eradicating them at present, like the Pheonix from the ashes, they rise up and carry out their nefarious life-style and decimate the honeybee population.

However, the beekeeper has to do her/his best and help the bees through this difficult time.

Despite this troublesome period, we have many new beekeepers on hand, not all can be accommodated with bees.

The losses suffered over the past few years by existing beekeepers has meant a shortage of swarms, which were always a ready source of bees for a newcomer or established beekeeper.

This new season will see Barbara Chick and myself taking on the role of mentors to aspiring beekeepers, and in so doing we can give them a taste of colony manipulation and all the various manouverings which we as beekeepers carry out in our pursuit of honey production.

These practical sessions will see new beekeepers opening hives and assessing the state of each of them and suggesting courses of action which they think may be needed. I am looking forward to assisting these newcomers in any way I can and Barbara certainly shares my sentiments.

Oilseed rape is now coming into bloom and it is all around the apiary. This will provide an abundant source of nectar and pollen which the bees will exploit with all their being.

Meanwhile at Dyffryn, the bees have a great variety of blooms to forage upon and we may well get our first honey crop from them this year.

Have I said this before? Of course I have, positive thinking is the order of the day.

Will next month's report bring news of things really taking off? Let's hope so.

H WILLIAMS

The GEM has joined forces with the Dog's Trust to find caring new owners for animals at its Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

Who could offer Bobby a home?

THIS WEEK: Bobby the Bobster.

A Dogs Trust spokeswoman said: "Bobby is a four-and-a-half-year-old Collie Cross. He is a sweet and sensitive dog.

"He can be shy and lacks confidence and likes his own space. He loves his toys and will happily play fetch all day given the chance!

"He mixes with other dogs, but is best suited as the only dog in the home. He is house-trained and fine to be left for a few hours."

Type of home needed: He will need a quiet home environment with an experienced owner who is used to Collie types. He is not suitable with children and needs an adult only home. In the right home, given time and patience, Bobby will make a lovely, rewarding companion.

Bobby the Bobster.

Council's beach ban for dogs

THE VALE Council has reminded residents that dogs are banned from the following Vale beaches from May 1 to September 30 - Southerndown, Llantwit Major, Cold Knap, Barry Island and Penarth.

A by-law exists to protect the interests of bathers and ensure their safety throughout the summer when the beaches have their highest number of visitors.

During this time, it is an offence to bring a dog on any of the beaches listed above, and if a person is caught breaking the ban they could face a fine of up to £500.

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To see all our dogs, visit our new website, dogstrust.org.uk
You can trust a dog from
DogsTrust

‘WELSH MEDICS’ ENJOY THE FREEDOM OF THE VALE IN THE BARRY SUNSHINE

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail glynevans01@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 01446 773225.
Now open in the Wool Barn, Verity’s Court, Cowbridge.

TERRITORIAL Army medics who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, marched through Barry last Saturday when they were given the Freedom of the Vale.

The Cardiff-based 203 Welsh Field Hospital (Volunteers) is the only Territorial Army medical unit in the Principality, and its personnel are all part-time volunteers.

Known as ‘The Welsh Medics,’ they recruit from across Wales, and the Vale Council unanimously agreed to grant them the honour in recognition of their invaluable work in saving lives.

They recruit from all disciplines – doctors, nurses, paramedics, radiographers, physios, biomedical scientists, dentists, dental nurses, pharmacy technicians, pharmacists and health care support workers.

The freedom, which is the highest tribute a county borough council can bestow, is a long-standing tradition and in being given the honour in the Vale, the medics follow in the distinguished footsteps of the Merchant Navy Association (Wales), The Welsh Guards and The Royal Welsh.

Crowds gathered in King Square to see Vale Mayor, Coun Emlyn Williams present a special scroll to the unit’s Commanding Officer, Col Kevin Davies.

Following the ceremony, the unit, preceded by The Band of the Royal Welsh and accompanied by a police motorcycle outrider and two police horses and riders, paraded through the town to Barry Leisure Centre.

Coun Williams said: “I am delighted that we are able to recognise the unit and the valuable work they’re doing both at home and abroad. Many brave soldiers seriously injured in various conflicts owe their lives to the magnificent treatment given by units such as ‘The Welsh Medics.’ They continue to risk their lives to save those of others.”

Col Kevin Davies said: “The Vale Council has shown its appreciation and acknowledgment of the significant contribution that Wales’ Field Hospital makes in supporting UK Operations.”

“Thank you for medical assistance!”

MY sincere thanks to the Welsh Territorial Army medics, the Barry Leisure Centre first aiders, Richard, a Barry member of the Royal British Legion, and the paramedics for coming to my aid when I was taken ill in Barry Leisure Centre during the reception for the Welsh Territorial Army medics on Saturday, April 17.

After spending a few hours at the Heath Hospital, Cardiff, I was allowed home.

David Shankland, Barry branch, Royal British Legion

Cemetery Junction is one stop that is worth getting off at!

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

IT seems that Ricky Gervais is developing something of a chip on his shoulder.

The comedian has parlayed the success of *The Office* into very real celebrity; yet as his profile has increased, it seems his comedy has lessened, best case in point being the run of mill *The Invention of Lying*, Gervais' first starring vehicle, which failed to set cinemas alight.

However, Gervais' latest film sees him taking both the co-writing and directing duties with Stephen Merchant, the co-conspirator of both *The Office* and *Extras*, and changes tack from comedy to something a bit more dramatic in *Cemetery Junction*.

The film tells the story of three teenagers, Freddie (Christian Cooke), Bruce (Tom Hughes) and Snork (Jack Doolan), whose lives consist of the general drudgery of small towns in the 1970s.

However, when Freddie takes a job selling insurance, under the watchful eye of Mr Kendrick (Ralph Fiennes) and Mike Ramsay (Matthew Goode), the trio's friendship is tested as they discover growing up is more painful than they thought...

Seeing in big letters 'Written and directed by Ricky Gervais and Stephen Merchant' may mislead some people into expecting either a full-on comedy or, for those less keen on the Gervais brand, a two-hour smug-fest of comedians he knows.

Cemetery Junction, however, is a film that skirts closer to the British films of the early 1960s (*Saturday Night, Sunday Morning* and *Billy Liar* being stylistic reference points) than it does the work of Gervais' idols such as Woody Allen and, coupled with a touch of the pair's typical humour, makes for a hugely worthwhile viewing experience.

The idea for the film has been floating around ever since Gervais and Merchant wrapped up *The Office*, initially as a follow-up sitcom, and it is clear that time and effort went into the script; the characters, by and large, are sharply drawn, and there is a real sense of the pair showing there is more to their writing than comedy but never straying too far from their roots.

The film is replete with their brand of one-liners, the film never less than hugely amusing, while one or two set-ups are hilarious, under-pinned with a cringeworthiness not seen since the days of Wernham Hogg.

They also nail the characters superbly well, with the three leads perfectly realised, giving each their own moment, yet capturing beautifully the carefree attitude of the last days of youth before life takes over; it is a coming-of-age tale that doesn't wear its feelings too overtly.

Meanwhile, the casual racism and sexism of the day is etched among the supporting characters with a lightness of touch, the mentality of the early 1970s being reflected through the band of characters.

The pair's direction is similarly strong, capturing the suburban minutiae to perfection.

While the pair shy away from anything too technical within their direction, they do offer up enough clever touches to give the film a cinematic feel, while maintaining the intimacy of the piece.

With such well-written characters, it is little surprise the cast offer up such well-tuned performances.

Christian Cooke shows an easy charisma and likeability as the ambitious Freddie, desperate to better himself and escape a life of working in factories, while Tom Hughes is mesmeric as the conflicted Bruce, full of pent up rage and anger at both his situation and his father's perceived failure to keep his family together.

Completing the trio is Jack Doolan's comedic turn as Snork; unable to speak to women, and seemingly incapable of surviving in social situations, he is the comedy between Cooke and Hughes' more dramatic turns.

As a trio, their chemistry is believable, and completely engaging.

The supporting cast are well assembled and all offer something; from Felicity Jones as Freddie's old school sweetheart, now engaged to Mike Ramsay (a smug Matthew Goode) a man who wants nothing more than to be like her father, Mr Kendrick (a turn from Ralph Fiennes that removes the bitter aftertaste of *Clash of The Titans*), to Gervais himself, who reins in the comedy for a turn that has more than hint of pathos running through it; all the support turns are a winner.

Even British comedy perennials such as Julia Davies, Steve Speirs and Anne Reid are afforded opportunities to shine, but it is Emily Watson who comes closest to stealing the show, her small but expertly delivered turn as Mrs Kendrick, whose lack of attention from her husband is a bitter portent of what may come to her daughter if she doesn't follow her dreams, lighting up the film and highlighting the strength in depth on show.

The film's greatest skill, however, is its timeless quality. Yes, there are nods to the period in which it is set, but the overall themes are timeless, and this makes *Cemetery Junction* a film that stands up on its own.

VERDICT – Another success story for Ricky Gervais and Stephen Merchant, *Cemetery Junction* makes for a hugely watchable film.

A strong script and performances make this a coming-of-age tale well worth watching, and *Cemetery Junction* a stop well worth getting off at.

Highly recommended.

Celebration evening as Vale Show honours prizewinners

IT was celebration time at Ewenny and Corntown Cricket Club when the Vale of Glamorgan Show held its annual dinner and field class prize giving.

Fiona and Huw James catered and a delicious beef dinner was enjoyed by all.

Following the dinner, John Hanks, chairman of the society, announced the prizewinners for 2009, with president Mrs Mary Thomas awarding the cups.

Prizewinners include:

- HD Hanks & Son – best clamp of silage.
- R & L Anthony – best bag of silage.
- Gareth Rees – long term grass ley.
- RS Thomas & Son – short term grass ley.
- EH Radcliffe & Son – best field of winter barley.
- RJ Thomas & Son – best field of winter oats.
- EH Radcliffe & Son – best field of winter wheat.
- PC Thomas & Son – best field of spring barley.
- RJ Thomas & Son – best winter oilseed crop.
- R & L Anthony – best field of beans.
- VJ Thomas & Son – best field of maize.
- E Williams & Son – best clamp of maize.
- TW Jarvis & Son – best acre of potatoes.

The Cup for the winner of the most points in the combinable crop section was won by EH Radcliffe & Son, Penmark Place.

The Victor Ludorum Trophy for the highest number of points in the agricultural section on show day 2009 was won by VJ Thomas & Son, Pancross Farm, Llancarfan.

Mr David Harris, show director, thanked the president for all her work for the society over many years. The society is looking forward to hosting the 2010 show on August 11 in Fonmon Castle.

For further information, log on to www.Valeofglamorganshow.co.uk or telephone 01446 710099.

ABOVE: The Rees family of Wrinstone Farm, Wenvoe, with the George Gibson Perpetual Challenge Cup for the best long term ley.

ABOVE: Tony Thomas receiving the Vivian Thomas Memorial Trophy for the most agricultural points on show day.

ABOVE: Julian Radcliffe with the Robert Thomas Memorial Perpetual Challenge Cup for the highest points in the combinable corn section.

ABOVE: Peter Jarvis of Gelli Goll, Llansannor, receiving the Llancarfan Ploughing Match society perpetual challenge cup for the best acre of potatoes.

ABOVE: Mr. John Hanks with the Major Frank Homfray Perpetual Challenge Cup for the best clamp of silage.

RIGHT: Mr Richard Anthony receiving the cup for the best bag of silage.

ABOVE: Mike Thomas of Sutton Newydd Farm, Wick receiving the best winter oilseed vup.

ABOVE: Nick Thomas of Splott Farm receiving the cup for the best field of Spring barley.

We welcome your news. Please email them to: **ggem@internet-today.co.uk**

A Personal Invitation to Christ College

I AM delighted to invite you to Christ College Brecon on Saturday May 8th, for our annual Spring Open Morning.

This begins at 9.30 am and is for anyone who wants to find out more about life at the school. I look forward to meeting you and introducing you to members of staff and pupils. We can give you a first hand account of what it is to live, work and play in this unique environment. You will be taken on a tour to see for yourselves the excellent facilities and opportunities available on this beautiful campus.

At Christ College we are looking for young people with the potential to take full advantage of all that is on offer here, which is why we offer scholarships to those with academic, sporting, musical or artistic flair, and bursaries for those in financial need. The only way to see if the school might be right for your child is to visit, ask questions and experience the atmosphere.

We all look forward to welcoming you to Christ College.

Emma Taylor
Head of Christ College Brecon

For more details please call Mrs Margaret Stephens on 01874 615440 or visit www.christcollegebrecon.com

A GLITTERING NIGHT FOR BARRY COLLEGE AWARD WINNERS 2010

The award winners on stage.

BARRY Memorial Hall recently played host to the Barry College Annual Awards Ceremony, now in its fifth year.

More than 300 learners, staff, sponsors and guests from local business and industry arrived for the ceremony to celebrate the success and achievements of the college.

The evening began with a drinks reception in the Bedwas Hall before guests were welcomed into the main hall by principal and chief executive of Barry College, Paul Halstead.

Guests enjoyed a three-course gourmet meal prepared and served by Barry College Hospitality and Catering learners and staff.

After coffee, college principal Paul Halstead introduced the evening with a welcome and review of the year.

Cultural historian, writer and broadcaster Professor Peter Stead, then gave a short talk about the history of Barry, with special reference to the importance that the town has always placed upon education.

Then it was time to turn the spotlight on to the 40 learners and 13 staff members who received awards at the ceremony. All 45 awards were sponsored by local and national organisations, with representatives from these organisations presenting the award. The University of Wales Institute Cardiff (UWIC) was the main sponsor of the event.

The ceremony, hosted by television presenter Frances Donovan, began by singling out a learner from every curriculum area of the college. These learners were chosen for excellence and achievement in their subject area.

One learner who was recognised was hospitality and catering learner Daniel Mack. The 19-year-old from Barry now works for renowned chef Stephen Terry at his Abergavenny restaurant, the Hardwick.

"I came to Barry College because it was in the local area for me – I didn't have to travel or anything like that," Daniel said.

"The course at college was really good. I did some work experience for Stephen Terry after he came in to the college. I worked for free for a week and not long after that he offered me a job.

"I'm loving it! It's hard work, but it's just the sort of thing I have always wanted to do."

Next came the cross college and staff awards. The cross college awards celebrate learners and staff across all curriculum areas, and are chosen for their outstanding achievements.

One winner of a cross college Award was BSc aeronautical maintenance learner Muhamad Farouk Abdul Rashid, who won the 'international student' award. His tutor Richard Hepple said: "Farouk has had excellent attendance throughout the course and has achieved academic results which indicated he is in line to achieve a first class honours degree in his course – BSc Aeronautical Maintenance."

Farouk (24) from Malaysia, and currently living in Pontypridd, said: "I feel very happy and honoured to have received this award.

"It's very enjoyable to learn all about aircraft maintenance. I like to come to Barry and I also like studying at the University of Glamorgan. The experienced lecturers from ICAT also have been very helpful all this time to me and my international coursemates."

To celebrate the college's 50th anniversary, this year saw the first Barry College Founder's award. This was won by business management learner Melanie Asthenidis-Dawson in recognition of her determination to complete her course after suffering a horrific accident.

The last award to be presented was the principal's award. This prestigious award was presented to the learner who most reflected college values through outstanding achievement, attitude or participation in extra-curricular activities. Individuals were nominated by college staff and the winner chosen by the principal.

The delighted winner of this award was Marius Miknis. Marius came to Barry College after his parents relocated to the area from Lithuania, and has gained top grades on the BTEC first diploma and BTEC National Diploma in IT.

"Marius's achievements are even more worthy of recognition as, during his time at college, Marius overcame language difficulties, learning through English – his second language," course tutors Dave Morgan and Theresa Kadach said.

Following the presentation of the awards, chair of governors Peter Cope gave a vote of thanks, congratulating all the award winners. He added that Barry College is a positive, dynamic institution that works hard to ensure learner success.

The college would like to thank all of its sponsors who supported the event, particularly the main sponsors. The support of the sponsors ensures that the success of learners continues to be celebrated in such a high quality way.

Curriculum Area Awards – Access to FE / HE, Luzetta Badminton; Accountancy, Teresa Marshall; Aeronautical Engineering, Matthew McGranaghan; Art and Design, Craig Webber; Beauty and Holistic Therapy, Nadine Bin-Said; Business and Administration, Adam Taylor; Childcare, Gareth Courtman; Construction, Brickwork (Barry), Daniean Mort; Construction, Brickwork (Cardiff), Kevin Spear; Construction Carpentry (Barry), David Nugent-Finn; Construction, Carpentry (Cardiff), Dale Barratt; Construction, Painting and Decorating, Celia Jones; Counselling, Tracy Cowdry; Engineering, Scott Kihlberg; Foundation Skills, James Davies; Hairdressing, Carl Wembridge; Health, Care and Welfare, Elaine Jones; Hospitality and Catering, Daniel Mack; IT and Computing, Daniel Twomey; Plumbing, Mike Giovanelli; Public Services, Jonathan Jones; Sport and Fitness, Sinead Melinn; Teaching and Training, Kim Shord; Travel and Tourism, Lucy Perry.

Principal's Awards – Assistant Principal's Award (Enterprise), Huw Edwards; Assistant Principal's Award (Sustainable Development), Heather Pennington; Vice Principal's Award (Contribution to College Life), Gareth James; Founder's Award, Marius Miknis.

Cross College Awards – Adult Learning, John Norman Jones; Basic Skills, Sarah Grant; Community Learning (Cardiff), Saeeda Khan; Community Learning (Vale of Glamorgan), Helena Lalik; Distance Learning, Lewis Mortimer-Brown; Higher Education, Sarah Hughes; International Student, Muhamad Farouk Abdul Rashid; School Link, Benjamin Nicholas, Leighton Jones; Welsh, Julie Ockwell; Welsh Baccalaureate, Lydia Evans; Work Based Learning, Ashley Davies.

Staff Awards – Team award – Cardiff Construction Training Centre 'Front of House' team; Team award – Learning Zone Team; Debra Nicholson – course tutor, PGCE/BA Education and advanced practitioner; Jon Williams – Course tutor, Art and Design; Kath Weatherhead – Course tutor, Science; Trevor Martin – technician, carpentry.

ABOVE:
Stephen Terry, sponsor of the Hospitality and Catering award, with winner Daniel Mack and Barry College chef lecturer Kevin Fairlie.

ABOVE:
Yvonne Weekly of award sponsor SET, International Student of the Year Muhammad Farouk Abdul Rashid, and aerospace engineering head of department, Jeff Moore.

U3A learns about prisoner rehabilitation

STEVE MORGAN from HMP Parc, Bridgend, was the speaker at the April meeting of Cowbridge U3A.

He started his presentation by quoting a number of statistics which illustrate what a large enterprise the Bridgend prison is.

It has a population of 1,200 adult prisoners ranging in age from 21 to 86, plus a young offenders unit. To operate this prison there is a staff of 600.

A high proportion of the inmates suffer from a very wide range of mental problems, addiction to drugs and alcohol, and learning difficulties.

In Steve's opinion, what all prisoners require is help to resolve their problems. He and his colleagues work hard to establish prisoners' needs and to provide the required help.

Their objective is to equip them with the skills they need to fit in with normal society when they are released. Steve was very proud of the community work they were able to do, and this included help with rebuilding Cowbridge town wall, and making the reproduction stocks for Cowbridge.

In proposing a vote of thanks to the speaker, Gwerfyl Gardner stated that like most people, she had very little knowledge of prisons and had found the presentation very informative and interesting.

This motion was enthusiastically supported by all present.

Welsh uprising at Cosmeston!

YET again, the Lord of Cosmeston Manor is to be found upsetting his neighbours!

As he feasts and carouses, stopping only to punish some of his less well-behaved peasants, he little realises that in the surrounding woods and glades the Welsh are preparing for war.

Owain Glyndwr has raised the men and women of south Wales to fight against their despised overlord! They have had enough of Cosmeston's lord and intend to attack the village!

Prior to the battle, from May 2-3 (11am-5pm), visitors can see medieval crafts and stalls and enjoy entertainments throughout the day. These will range from warriors in combat and archery displays, through to the gentle skills of the medieval herbalist and the nasty and bloody work of the surgeon!

A great fun day out for the family, medieval displays, fascinating crafts, and all culminating in an attack on the village by the warriors of Wales!

Entrance to the village for the Welsh uprising – adult £5, family £12 (two adults, three children), under six years free; concessions/children/OAP £3. For more information, call 029 2070 1678.

Barry College Annual Awards Evening 2010

Barry College would like to thank all sponsors who supported the evening.

To view all photographs from the event, log onto the offical Barry College Facebook Page - just search for Barry College and click on I ❤ Barry.

www.barry.ac.uk

Successful Family Businesses

3 PAGE FEATURE

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Linda, Geraint and family extend a warm welcome to you all.

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Vale family businesses are the bedrock of commerce

WHILE economic stories often concentrate on the importance of multi-national companies, it is often forgotten just how critical family-run businesses are to the community – particularly in the Vale.

Many family concerns have stood the test of time and go back four or five generations.

The rural nature of the Vale means that a number of firms supply agricultural and animal related items – feeds, vehicles, farming machinery, and garden products.

For farmers, gardeners, and horse and pet owners, there's an attraction in dealing with a well-known face with specialist knowledge that isn't going to be here one moment and gone the next!

Family businesses, by their nature, put down roots and invest in an area.

The pub and restaurant trade is one of the most visible examples of families 'seizing the bull by the horns' – to use a rural term – and investing in the local community.

Over the years, The GEM has highlighted numerous examples of people taking over an ailing country pub, and with commitment, and a desire to provide a great service to the community, being able to sustain their long term dream.

The 'hardy perennial' businesses of everyday life – butchers, bakers, local shops offering everything from fashion to home interiors, funeral directors and vehicle suppliers – shouldn't be forgotten either.

A final thought on the service offered by family businesses. If you've dealt with a person, however helpful, in one of our great multi-nationals, how memorable have they been? How much time have they been able to devote to you? And a family concern?

Case made.

CROSSLANDS' NEW POOL IS A BOON TO ACHING BONES!

A NEW treatment is available at Crossland Kennels, now that its hydrotherapy centre has been opened.

The owners, Mike and Julie Jones, have been established there since 2001, and recent developments also include 11 extra kennels, and a grooming parlour.

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Hydrotherapy can be beneficial for a variety of conditions, including: Hip and elbow dysplasia; arthritis; spinal injuries and paralysis; cruciate ligament injuries; pre-operative muscle strengthening; post-operative fitness and muscle rebuilding; obesity and weight management and general fitness, where it is particularly useful for working and agility dogs.

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Crosslands is a member of the Canine Hydrotherapy Association

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01446 793103 or e-mail us at

crosslandshydrotherapy@hotmail.co.uk

William James and sons

David & John

There are many things which can make a business successful, one is the ability to change with the times, another is to provide a quality, professional service – One such family-run business is W James & Sons, Fonmon who are builders and funeral directors.

Established in 1860 by William James, the original company reflected the agricultural nature of the area and included a wheelwright and blacksmith. There was also a building arm to the firm. When agricultural technology changed so did the business, with the building and funeral side taking precedent.

In 2010 the firm is celebrating 150 years in business, now being run by the joint partners, John James, who is fourth generation, managing the funeral side and David Cooper, fifth generation, managing the building side.

John and David are pleased and proud to still be serving the Vale of Glamorgan after 150 years and believe the combined family experience will stand them in good stead for many years to come.

"These strange economic times, and past recessions, have presented a challenge, but we help each other out whenever the need arises. On both sides of the business it is important to keep up with current legislation and regulations. On the building side David covers the full range of work from small repairs through to extensions and complete houses."

John concedes that the funeral side can be very demanding, but manages to separate work from his home life even though he can be on call 24 hours a day throughout the year, stating "We treat each client with understanding, care and compassion. It is a privilege to deal with people and their families at such an emotional and sensitive time, with differing needs individually catered for."

William James and sons

Established 1860

Builders and Funeral Directors

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Husband and wife team Dean and Leanne Edmonds believe hard work, determination and commitment are the key attributes to running a successful family business.

Dean explains "These key ingredients form the business ethos we are fully dedicated to. By incorporating these values into our business on a daily basis, the team at Creative Window and Build Solutions provide a level of service that more than meets our customer's expectations. This, in return provides us future work by recommendations which continues to be our main source of business."

Leanne adds "Being a close knit team, means we give our customers a friendly, helpful, assistance from the initial contact through to completion, and not forgetting the crucial after sales service. We are proud of the relationships we build with our customers, which is the main reason the company has been so successful."

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The shop, named after their 3 children Sam, Molly & Annie, was opened through their own experiences of having to travel to purchase quality items for their children which made them aware of a necessity for an outlet of this type in the area.

The shop at 1 High Street, Barry is well stocked with items that are dedicated to babies and children, so when it comes to choosing the latest products for your baby or child, Smolanny's should be your first stop. At Smolanny's we stock the very latest selection of nursery products, baby gifts, toys and clothing, all of which we have personally sourced with the modern family in mind.

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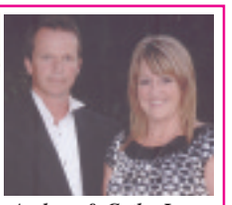
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We have a permanent stores manager working there, Glyn Evans, and we are also in the process of building another workshop.

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Breast Cancer group gives members a lift

ON April 14, members and friends of the Cowbridge LIFT enjoyed a talk on positive living, given by a senior occupational therapist from Velindre Hospital.

Voluntary organisation LIFT (Life Is For Today) is a self help group for those affected by breast cancer.

It meets regularly to offer support and friendship for people living in the Vale.

LIFT group member Jan Beaven said: "Having been diagnosed in 2007, the LIFT Group has been a lifeline and I really appreciate all the support the group has given me."

The next LIFT group meeting will be in Cowbridge on April 28 between 10am and 1pm. It will include relaxation therapies such as reiki, reflexology and Indian head massage.

The LIFT Group has already welcomed five new members since January, and this will be an ideal opportunity for anyone affected by breast cancer to come along for coffee and a chat.

Please contact Hilary on 01446 749756 or Anne on 01446 772843 for a programme or further information.

'Design a Logo' competition open to Vale pupils

TO celebrate its 10th birthday, the Vale of Glamorgan Farmers' Market is running a 'Design a Logo' competition for 9-11 year olds at schools in the Vale.

The winner will receive £50 for themselves and £50 for their school, and the winning entry will be printed on a re-usable cotton shopping bag which will be distributed to market shoppers.

On the first and third Saturday every month in the Arthur John car park, approximately 30 stalls sell a variety of produce. A monthly market is also run on the fourth Saturday of the month at Westbourne School, Penarth.

"The competition is an opportunity for children to learn about the ethos of the Farmers' Market and the fresh, healthy, locally produced food it provides," said Vale of Glamorgan Farmers' Market chairman, Anders Leijerstam.

All primary schools in the Vale have been circulated with the competition details and the closing date is May 17. The presentation to the winner will be on July 3.

The winner of the Farmers' Market hamper in April was schoolboy Sion Esau, aged 12, who was accompanying his father to the market.

THE Re-upholstery Curtain & Net Centre is owned by husband and wife Rhys and Ann Jones.

The business started up 23 years ago, as antique restoration and re-upholstery. After two years, the business expanded into made-to-measure curtains and interior design by Ann Jones.

When Rayers closed, and later Dan Evans, the stock gradually grew to meet demand. They now stock the largest range of net curtains in the Vale of Glamorgan, along with ready-made curtains and all accessories.

Rhys concentrates on the re-upholstery and interior design. Specialising in contract upholstery and refurbishment for pubs, clubs and domestic clients.

"No job too small or too big!" says Rhys.

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EDWARDS Machinery Ltd is located on Bridgend Industrial Estate on the same site as Glamorgan Farm Supplies Ltd.

Established just over six years ago and primarily dealing with buying and selling farm machinery, Edwards Machinery Ltd covers the south Wales area and has various franchises, including Kverneland, Bailey Trailers, Major, Protech, Fleming, Opico, Nugent and many more.

After being asked by (father) Stewart Edwards of GFS, to come and help manage the fast-growing family business, Robbie Edwards introduced machinery sales.

Having a sound knowledge of tractors, farm machinery and customer requirements, linked with a background in farming, Robbie has enabled the business to develop into the success it is today.

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ASPROU & SONS barber shop is one of Barry's longest running businesses in quality gents' hairdressing.

John Asprou first started his barbers' business in 1963 and is proud that his son and grandsons are following in this long-established family profession.

Stas, John's son, is running the barber shop on Broad Street Parade, along with his son Yianni, but the business is relocating on May 10 to 12a Market Street (formerly the taxi office) opposite Wetherspoons.

Harry is running the barbers at 224 Holton Road, called Peter's Barbers (Basset end of Holton Road).

We are moving on Monday 10th May, from 14 Broad Street Parade, Barry to
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It's the Kloe and Chloe show!

WITH the Icelandic volcanic ash issue decimating numbers of overseas competitors, this year's Scottish International Open, which took place at Edinburgh's Meadowbank Stadium last weekend, was largely a Scotland-England event, with a small Vale Karate squad being Wales' only entrants.

However, Vale Karate's young champions flew the Welsh flag with pride.

Kloe Christoforato landed a hat-trick of titles at the event.

Remarkably, the under-10 girls Kata title has come to Vale Karate for the past four years. In 2008, Jessica Kinson was champion, with Chloe Fry beating Kloe in last year's final.

Jessica and Chloe, both now 10-years-old, have moved up to the under-12s where both reached the last four, with former British champion Jessica earning a bronze, and former Commonwealth champion Chloe taking the gold medal.

With two gold medals secured, Vale Karate's trio of Welsh champions contesting the under-14 boys Kata event all gave everything to improve on that number, but it was not to be.

Bradley Christoforato, Nick Sherrin and Sion Kinson were up against some of Britain's best and had a torrid time.

However, when the dust had settled, Sion had progressed to the last four, where he had to settle for a hard-fought bronze medal.

Vale Karate's final competitor, Demi White, was entered in the under-14, plus-45Kg girls Kumite event, and weighing 46Kg, was surely the lightest in the large group.

She won no fewer than four rounds before finally succumbing, in extra time of the final, to a much bigger Scottish girl to earn a silver medal.

RC

COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS ROUND-UP

Porthcawl sand dunes are a cross country test

COWBRIDGE under-13 and under-16 cross country teams travelled to St John's School in Porthcawl to compete in the annual sand dune race.

The weather conditions were ideal for cross country and, with the addition of Brynteg competing this year, competition was much harder than previous years.

In the first race (the under-13 girls), Annabel Curle (year-8) led the Cowbridge girls home in fourth place behind a very strong Brynteg winner. Rebecca Thomas (year-7), came in next in sixth place, followed by Nadine James in eighth and Alice Tudor ninth. These four girls made up the scoring team and came in first, beating off Brynteg.

ABOVE: The girls indoor cricket team.

Other Cowbridge finishers were Ella Emyr 12th, Eleanor Bishop 15th, Brooke Langton-Cryer 16th, Niamh Gallagher 31st and Sophie Thomas 32nd.

With a depleted under-16 team, with Rachel Bradshaw resting for her final Welsh hockey trials in Brecon on the weekend, Katie Wynne with music commitments, and Rebecca John with a French exchange student, the chances of regaining the title was slim against Brynteg.

Fiona Bray was the top finisher of the day, in second, and Miriam Bennett had a good run in third.

Verity Morgan was next to finish in sixth place, and last minute replacement Lydia James ran a good race to finish 12th place. Unfortunately, the team was two points behind Brynteg, coming second in the team places.

Rachel Bradshaw qualified for the Welsh under-16 hockey team after her weekend trials and played against Scotland over the Easter holidays.

Cricket

As reigning County Indoor Cricket winners, Cowbridge competed against two teams from Whitchurch to regain their title.

In the first match, Cowbridge faced Whitchurch 'B' team. Cowbridge bowled first, with Lucie Jones opening the bowling.

In the first over, eight runs were scored with two of these coming from a wide ball and two wickets were taken.

In the second over, no runs were made by Whitchurch and Rachel Jones took three wickets.

Lucie Jones bowled her second over and took a further wicket with only one run made. Rachel bowled again, giving one wide and one run was scored.

Lucie Jones bowled her third over, taking another wicket and bowling one wide.

Romy Killick had her first chance to bowl and took the eighth wicket, with Whitchurch scoring one run and Romy giving one wide, making the final score 8 for 17 runs.

Lucie Jones then went into bat with Rachel Jones. Rachel was quickly caught, so Rachel Bradshaw went into bat with Lucie. Seventeen runs were quickly made so Rachel and Lucie both retired, allowing the rest of the team to practise.

All eight players for Cowbridge had a chance of batting over the 12 overs, with a final score of 105 for 4 wickets.

While Whitchurch A played Whitchurch B, Cowbridge got a chance to get some practice before playing Whitchurch A.

Cowbridge bowled first, with Rachel opening a six-run score followed by Lucie Johnson, who took a wicket. Whitchurch's best player scored many sixes to put Cowbridge under pressure.

Mairi Boxall took a Whitchurch wicket and Romy Killick three.

After 12 overs, Whitchurch had scored 81 for 6 wickets.

Cowbridge batted and Rachel Bradshaw was out for 10 runs, quickly followed by Lucie Johnson. Losing Rachel and Lucie so early put pressure on the team.

Laura Howells and Mairi Boxall put on an excellent display with Laura having to retire after scoring 25 and Mairi out for 19.

Romy Killick finished off the innings for a total of 86 runs for 2.

The team now wait to hear if they go to the Welsh finals, or if they have got straight through to Lords to play in the UK finals.

Hockey

Cowbridge year-7 hockey team played in their annual Cardiff and Vale preliminary tournament at Bryn Hafren.

The team had a run of bad luck, with fixtures cancelled due to bad weather and pitch unavailability, so the team had only played two matches before this tournament.

In the first match, Cowbridge played Llanedeyrn. Hannah Lister-Simms, Megan McNamee and Rosa Hartman attacked powerfully from the whistle with Ellie Eddy-Williams, Emily Davies and Evie Williams stopping the ball going anywhere near the defending circle.

Rosa Hartman scored twice, making the final score 2-0. In the second game against Bryn Hafren, the girls found the goal a few more times, with Hannah Lister-Simms, Meg McNamee and Ellie Eddie-Williams scoring one each and Rosa Hartman scoring twice.

One of these goals came off a very skilful short corner where Ellie hit the ball in, Hannah stopped it and hit it to Rosa and she knocked it in. The final score was 5-0.

ABOVE: The year-7 girls team who played in the hockey finals.

The boys' basketball squad.

In the third game against Bro Morganwg, the defence of Alice Tucker, Tilly Hall, Caitlin Jones, Megan Thorne and Sian Dumblebee had to work harder to keep Bro Morganwg from scoring.

Evie Williams was outstanding in this match and scored a well-deserved goal for her efforts and once again Rosa scored, making it a goal in every match. With the final result 2-0, the girls won the tournament and then went on to the county finals tournament.

Player of the match: Ellie Eddy-Williams.

Year-7 in hockey finals – In the year-7 hockey finals, Cowbridge played a round robin tournament against Cardiff High School, Glantaf and Llanishen.

In the first game it was evident that our defence were going to have to work a lot harder than they had at the preliminary tournament.

The defence of goalkeeper Hannah Lee, sweeper Tilly Hall, Megan Thorne, Alice Tucker and Caitlin Jones were all put under a lot of pressure but held on to a 0-0 draw at half-time.

In the second half, mistakes in defence allowed gaps to open for two easy goals from Llanishen.

In the second game against Cardiff High, midfielder Ellie Eddy-Williams went into defence and did an incredible job of keeping shots away from goalie Hannah Lee. Caitlin Jones also picked up some strength and made some good tackles throughout the game.

Cardiff High scored one goal during the match, making it two losses for Cowbridge.

Not to go home with the wooden spoon, Glantaf were the last game and they had also lost against Cardiff High and Llanishen.

Cowbridge attacked well with Megan McNamee, Rosa Hartman, Emily Davies, Evie Williams, Hannah Lister-Simms all working hard to create goal scoring opportunities, but unfortunately no goals were scored at the Glantaf end.

Due to Hannah Lee's two amazing saves and excellent defence work by Cowbridge, Glantaf could not score either, resulting in a 0-0 draw.

Glantaf and Cowbridge finished joint third, with Llanishen first after beating Cardiff High in the final game.

Player of the match: Hannah Lee.

Football

Year-7 played the Cardiff & Vale Schools Football Cup second round against Cantonian High School and won 3-1 with goals by Jonathan Harvey, Joe Davies and Tom Lucas.

Against Cathedral School A team, they lost 4-2 with goals by Joe Davies and Tom Lucas. The B team won 4-2 with goals by Harvey Stockton (2) and Joseff Treharne (2).

Against Cardiff High School in the quarter-final cup, the score was 3-3 at full-time and still 3-3 after extra time. Cowbridge lost on penalties 4-2 with goals by Ben Jones, Joe Davies and Tom Lucas; penalties by Ben Jones and Tom Lucas.

It was disappointing finish for the team, who were winning 3-1 with 10 minutes to go. The boys lost concentration and ball watching let the opposition in to draw level and the rest is history!

Swimming

Congratulations go to Cameron Jones (year-8) on his selection for the Welsh swimming team to compete at the Home Internationals in Scotland, which took place in March.

Basketball

The year-8 boys played a series of games in the Cardiff & Vale Schools basketball league.

They won all five games – against Barry Comprehensive School, 44-12; against Bro Morgannwg 33-6; against Porthcawl Comprehensive School 38-12; and Richard Gwyn Roman Catholic School 44-20.

The year-8 team qualified for a semi-final against Willows High School, Cardiff.

Squad: George Griffiths, Tom Trotman, Joseff Gaughan, Declan Thomas, Sean Rowland, Tom Owen, Harri Stubbington, Owen Ace, Sam Powner, Alex Greaves, Matthew Roberts, Llwyd Elms.

Gymnastics

The results from Welsh floor and vault individual championship were as follows:

	Floor	Vault	Total
Under-13 mixed			
Tobias Swann	8.6	9.0	17.6
Liam Martin	7.9	8.7	16.6
Annabel Curle	8.7	8.8	17.5
Chloe Bridgeman	7.5	8.7	16.2
Lily Evans	8.8	9.3	18.1
Under-13 Girls			
Natasha Simmonite	8.0	8.9	16.9
Emily Johnston	7.4	8.8	16.2
Kathryn Llewellyn	8.0	8.8	16.8
Emmy Bevan	7.8	8.9	16.7
Camille Wilson-Jenkins	7.3	9.2	16.5
Under-13 Boys			
Elliott Mason	6.5	8.6	15.1
John Scott-Coombes	6.8	8.5	15.3
Declan Thomas	7.5	8.4	15.9
Tom Trotman	7.6	8.8	16.4
Joseff Ricketts	6.9	8.4	15.3
Under-18 Mixed			
Dylan Layzell	7.7	9.3	17.0
Daniel Thomas	7.9	9.1	17.0
Jonathan Davies	6.8	9.1	15.9
Rebecca Thomas	8.0	8.2	16.2
Caitlin Allin	7.5	8.6	16.1
Matthew Whiteley	6.3	8.8	15.1

NEWS IN BRIEF

Red Cross sale

THE Cowbridge Red Cross is holding another mini fabric sale on Friday, April 23 at the Boardshoard Centre, 10.30am-12.30pm. Coffee and tea available.

Open the day before (same time) for donations to the sale of fabric and related items; or telephone 01446 773987 for assistance. Admission is free.

Craft fair

THERE will be a country craft and gift fair this Saturday, April 24, at Old Hall, Westgate, Cowbridge, 10am-4pm.

Summer pot plants

LLANTWIT Major Horticultural Society meet on Wednesday, April 28 at 7.30pm in the Llantonian Hall, Llantwit Major.

The speaker this month is Clayton Radford, secretary of the Port Talbot Fuchsia Pelargonium and Pot Plant Society, and also a flower show judge.

His talk is entitled 'Fuchsias, Pelargoniums and Begonias in pots'. Admission to the lecture and refreshments are free. Members and prospective members are warmly welcomed.

Gardening club's AGM

THE annual general meeting and seedling evening for the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday, April 29 in the Lesser Hall.

Out and About with The GEM

Tears and laughter at 'An Audience with Sally Morgan'

by JAN IRVING

BARRY Memorial Hall was packed last Saturday for 'An Audience with Sally Morgan'.

Having read her books and seen her on television in 'Psychic to the Stars', I was looking forward to seeing Sally Morgan live.

As I arrived, the air of anticipation and excitement was tangible as people of all ages, male and female, crowded into the auditorium to take their seats.

The first thing I noticed was the impressive stage arrangement with an interactive screen and excellent sound and visibility for everyone.

Sally's entrance was greeted with loud applause and she was very quick to put the audience at ease. Over the next two hours she demonstrated her amazing psychic abilities.

Her sense of humour was evident throughout the evening, despite the many tragedies and heartaches that she touched on.

There were so many moving moments with many in the audience in tears, but followed by plenty of laughter.

I cannot remember an evening I have enjoyed more, touching on all of my emotions.

The two hours went by all too quickly and it was with reluctance that we deservedly cheered Sally off the stage.

Sally Morgan is an amazing lady and I would highly recommend getting tickets for 'An audience with Sally Morgan'.

Her next visit to the Memorial Hall, Barry, is on Tuesday, September 21. Get you tickets early – this is guaranteed to be yet another sell out!

Lifestyle gyms lower age limit

IN a bid to improve the health of young people, the minimum age for using the LifeStyle gyms at Vale leisure centres has been reduced from 16 to 14 years old.

"By lowering the minimum age, the council hope to expose teenagers to safe physical activity from a young age and create exercise habits that last a lifetime," said cabinet member for leisure and tourism, Coun Anthony Ernest.

"Fourteen and 15 year olds will be treated exactly the same as other customers and will be able to train in a safe environment at our LifeStyle gyms and be monitored by well qualified staff."

Dinas Art Exhibition

DINAS POWYS Art Group's annual art exhibition and sale of original works takes place on April 24 and April 25 (10am - 4pm) at the Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys (entry 50p).

Refreshments and homemade cakes will be available. A percentage of sales will be donated to Marie Curie, Penarth.

This week's Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 614.

- **£2000:** 480086.
- **The rollover, which stood at £1,500, was won by ticket No:** 495616.
- **£10:** 651856; 416096; 424750; 370456; 382649; 551964; 661286; 784486; 677600; 545268; 466433; 846072; 551162; 683868; 576533; 813321; 715937; 123387; 486262; 491587.
- **£5:** 430866; 132152; 636106; 631608; 885855; 118090; 419989; 439391; 615482; 579211; 758849; 239481; 660894; 511325; 159959; 642375; 185617; 762620; 257400; 887663; 684786; 586813; 212268; 511330; 216435; 374014; 108560; 621293; 293183; 785764; 318493; 269884; 685739; 112270; 439257; 712758; 471487; 765857; 500381; 152639; 740573; 710219; 536253; 687572; 788557; 215202; 110476; 316542; 293197; 500632; 442525; 565961; 293271; 438206; 311405; 511424; 457160; 787817; 581689; 137836.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information, telephone 02920 672062.

A fun day for Welsh learners

BRIDGEND College's Cowbridge Road Campus is throwing open its doors on Saturday, April 24, to 'Sadwrn Siarad' – 'Welsh Learners Day'.

More than 150 Welsh speakers are expected to attend, and they will have the perfect opportunity to practice their Welsh, meet other learners at their level and have a bit of fun as well.

Sadwrn Siarad begins at 10am (doors open at 9.30am) and runs until 3.30pm. Tickets cost £10 and include tuition, coffee and a light lunch.

To enrol, contact Bridgend College e-mail: welsh@bridgend.ac.uk or the Glamorgan Welsh for Adults Centre, or telephone 01443 483600.

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Contact: Liz Mayor CEF
T: 02920 734441 M: 07739 251718
Email:classicaleducationforum@hotmail.co.uk

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Saturday, 24th April
Redlands Farm, BONVILSTON
– First race 2pm –
Featuring the 3M 4F Welsh Point-to-Point Grand National
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For further information please contact
Mr Phil Williams
01656 890 660
0779 915 5463

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BRO MORGANNWG

Volunteers make a huge impact on reading skills at Barry Comprehensive

Some of the volunteers who have helped Barry Comprehensive School's 'Better Reading Partnership' complete another successful term.

BARRY Comprehensive School's 'Better Reading Partnership' completed another successful term this Easter.

The partnership relies on specially-trained volunteers from the community who work in partnership with boys from years 7, 8 and 9, to help them improve their reading skills.

The school is very grateful to all the volunteers, past and present, without whose time and dedication the partnership would not be possible.

Pupils learn about Victorian schooldays

LEFT: There are (we are told) no more dunces caps in schools these days!

ABOVE: The pupils of Oakfield Primary learnt all about a different era during their recent 'Victorian Day', and came away with a greater understanding of the Victorian's impact on modern life.

YEAR-6 pupils at Oak Field Primary School recently experienced what school was like for Victorian children.

Mrs Barnfield, the assistant headteacher and year-6 teacher, held a 'Victorian Day' where they all dressed up and took part in old-style lessons.

They thoroughly enjoyed their day, and appreciated the differences in education between then and now.

A year-6 pupil said: "It was nice to have a change and see what it was like for Victorian children compared to now. If it wasn't for the Victorians, technnology wouldn't be as it is today."

PUBLIC MEETING

to discuss revised proposals with the Cabinet member for Education and Lifelong Learning and Vale of Glamorgan education officers.

Formal consultation on proposed new Welsh Medium Schools in Barry and Llantwit Major due to open September 2011.

27th April 2010, 6.00pm at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, Colcot Road, Barry

And

28th April 2010, 6.00pm at St Illtyd Primary School, Station Road, Llantwit Major

These venues are accessible to all.

Please let us know of any access needs by calling J Jones on 01446 709133.

This document is available in other formats upon request.

CYFARFOD CYHOEDDUS

Er mwyn trafod y cynigion newydd â'r Aelod o'r Cabinet dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes a swyddogion addysg Bro Morgannwg.

Ymgynghoriad ffurfiol ynglŷn â'r Ysgolion Cymraeg newydd arfaethedig yn Llanilltud Fawr a'r Barri sydd i'w hagor ym Medi 2011.

27 Ebrill 2010 am 6.00pm yn Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, Heol Colcot, y Barri

A

28 Ebrill 2010 am 6.00pm yn Ysgol Gynradd Illtud Sant, Heol yr Orsaf, Llanilltud Fawr.

Mae'r adeiladau hyn yn hawdd i bawb eu cyrraedd a'u defnyddio.

Rhowch wybod i ni os oes gennych anghenion arbennig o safbwynt defnyddio'r adeilad drwy ffonio J Jones ar 01446 709133.

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael mewn fformatau eraill dros ofi.

www.valeofglamorgan.co.uk

NEWS FROM YSGOL BRO MORGANNWG

Three pupils are going to Aberystwyth University

ABOVE: Bethan Gwanas pictured with the Welsh department.

Visit by prolific Welsh author

PROLIFIC Welsh writer and dramatist Bethan Gwanas recently visited the Welsh department and the pupils were fortunate enough to take part in creative writing workshops with her.

Particularly delighted to meet her were the year-11 group taught by Miss Rhian Griffiths, who are studying one of her novels for their Welsh Literature GCSE. They are pictured, proudly flanking the author.

THREE girls from year-13 have been successful in their quest for an entrance scholarship to the University of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Having sat entrance exams, Carys Jones from Dinas Powys, Michaela Townsend Ryan and Carys Williams from Barry (pictured) learnt that they had each been awarded a £1,000 scholarship to study drama (Carys Jones), history (Michaela) and English (Carys Williams).

Congratulations and best wishes for future success

On to the Urdd in Cardiganshire

A NUMBER of pupils, competing in 16 events, will be representing Cardiff and the Vale at the end of May in the Urdd Eisteddfod at Cardiganshire.

Talented pupils will compete in events ranging from folk dancing to a music threatre solo, and will be competing against schools from various parts of Wales.

Tudor is tops

The school's congratulations go to year-13 pupil Tudor Davies (pictured below), who was awarded second prize for best speaker in a recent young person's business competition.

Menter yr Ifanc is a competition where business students are required to compete against each other. The competition took place at the end of March in Cardiff City Hall.

Three businesses from Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, T2P (Events) Ltd, Siwgr Rush and Cam wrth Gam took part.

They were required to supply information about their history as a company and the profits they had made, as well as marketing their product.

It was certainly a worthwhile experience for them all, and we look forward to hearing about the team's future enterprises.

Tudor collects his award.

Win your school its own Eco-Activity Bench with Waitrose and The GEM

WAITROSE Barry have teamed up with The Glamorgan GEM, and we are offering one lucky reader the chance to win an eco-friendly activity bench for the school playground.

The bench will provide an excellent place to meet friends at break-time to play games such as snakes and ladders and noughts and crosses.

Not only are the benches fun, but they will create a talking point in the playground, as they are made entirely from recycled Bags for Life.

Customers can return their worn-out Bags for Life to their local Waitrose shop in Barry, where they will be collected and taken away to be made into outdoor benches and planters, which are donated to charities and schools.

For your chance to win an activity bench for your school, all you have to do is complete a quiz which focuses on how important it is to look after the environment.

How to enter the competition

Collect a quiz from the welcome desk inside Waitrose Barry, and on the quiz write:

Your name and address, and the name, address and telephone number of your school.

Hand your completed quiz in at the welcome desk inside Waitrose Barry by 12pm on Friday, May 14.

Terms and conditions: Entries must be sent or handed in at the welcome desk inside Waitrose Barry, Palmerston Road, by 12pm on Friday, May 14, and will not be accepted by any other means.

Entrants must be under 16 years of age.

The winner will be notified and their school will then be contacted to arrange a suitable date for delivery of the bench.

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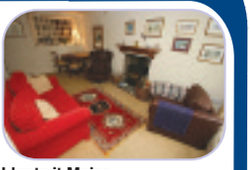

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W E L S H - S T Y L E DRESSER 36" x 16" x 69" high. Medium oak, 2 drawers, 1930s £45. Old bookcase/display cabinet, 33" x 10" x 52" high. Mahogany with lead paned glass doors £25. Buyer collects. Tel: 01446 750141. **(17)**

ITALIAN STYLE Antique dark wood large table with 8 (2 carver) navy leather chairs, suit large dining room or restaurant, VGC £300 ono. Ladies' golf bag plus 8 irons and putter £80 ono. Tel: 01446 794803. **(17)**

SOFA BUNK BED High quality, converts to double bed. Mattresses included, buyer collect, easily dismantles. £500 new, bargain £80. Tel: 01446 746147 (after 6pm). **(17)**

2 CHESTS OF DRAWERS Pine effect, matching, one large, one small (bedside). Both three drawers. Excellent condition. £40 the pair. Individual prices considered. Tel: 01446 796320. **(17)**

2 RECLINER CHAIRS Electric, very good condition, beige colour. £350 for two ono. Tel: 01656 658107 **(16)**

SANYO Digital stereo sound system. Small, black, excellent condition £60. Tel: 01446 410170. **(15)**

DIMPLEX CHESFORD Optim-Mist electric fire, almost new. Retails at £450 plus - will sell for £200. Change over to gas forces sale. Tel: 01446 730806. **(15)**

IKEA COMPUTER CABINNET (CYRIL) Width 78cms, Height 164cms, Depth 39cms. VGC £50. Tel: 01446 790188. **(16)**

DOUBLE BED £20. Child's single bed - £15. Tel-01446 737235 (after 6pm). **(16)**

FIREPLACE Oak surround, marble insert and hearth and living flame fire £175 . 01446 775348. **(17)**

EXTENDING PINE TABLE, four chairs, two carvers, excellent condition, 18 months old - £175ono . 01656 863123. **(17)**

MAMAS & PAPAS, carry cot/pushchair, excellent condition - £75ono . 01446 781458. **(17)**

PARKER KNOLL (GREEN) 3 SEAT SOFA and two armchairs plus storage footstool - £150. Buyer collects. 01446 795028. **(17)**

Motors For Sale

1998 R Reg
Rover 618i
1.9 Saloon
New MOT, til March 2011, excellent condition.
£650 ono
07796 848851
01446 775464 15

2004
Vauxhall Meriva
5-Dr 1.6i Design
Silver, 44,000 miles, 12 months MOT, 6 months tax. Excellent condition.
£3,000
07855 061984 14

2002
Vauxhall Vectra Estate SRi 150
2.2 Litre Engine
Silver, half leather, roof rails, towbar, nice alloys and tyres, a/c, electric pack, recent timing belt, MoT. Great condition. No canvassers
£2,150 ono
07961 022004 17

Range Rover 4.4 HSE Petrol
March 06
New 12 months tax, new MoT, 34,000 miles, pale green metallic, grey leather, lady owner, very good condition.
£24,995
01656 890617 or 07969 066981 16

03 Plate
Ford Ka
New MOT, very good condition, low mileage.
£1,950 ono
07971 185146 14

1997
VW Golf 2.8 VR6
5 Door, Dragon Green metallic, high mileage but excellent condition, long MOT, viewing recommended.
£1,500 ovno
07884 431858 16

T Reg
Ford Transit
LWB Tipper
88,000 miles, new tyres all round, MOT, Tax Aug 10.
£1,500 ono
01446 795220
07973 920205 14

W Reg V5
Seat Toledo
Excellent condition, MOT & Tax July 2010. New tyres, cruise, climate, half leather, towbar, 89k miles.
£1,450 ono
07753 761602 14

Toyota Celica 1.8VVTi
LIMITED EDITION BLUE MODEL
Black, alloy wheels, spoiler, leather seats, air con, 6-disc CD changer, service history, tax & MOT.
£6,750 ono
07712 599098 o/g

52 Plate
Mercedes Benz Sprinter 311 CDi Highroof MWB
Pale blue, 87,000 miles, MOT May 2010, Tax May 2010, runs very well.
£3,000 ono
01446 792336 15

Deadline for Motor Cars is 12 noon on Tuesday

Vale Schools cruise into plate semi-finals

ON Wednesday, April 14, Vale Schools under-11s took on their counterparts from Cynon Valley.

In a one-sided affair, the Vale boys ran away with the game, with the pack and backs combining well to score some excellent tries, running out winners by 49 – 7.

It was an excellent warm-up for the quarter-final of the D C Thomas plate match against Bridgend Schools on Saturday, a game which saw the Vale ease into semi-finals with a win.

The Vale started well and only strong tackling from Bridgend kept them at bay.

From a scrum on the five-metre line, Joe Short fed the ball into the scrum, and picking up at the rear, he powered his way over to score. Cai Evans converted.

From the kick-off, the Vale forwards again made their way upfield, and from a ruck on the 22 the ball was passed along line to Cai Evans, who ghosted through the defence to score under the posts, and then converted his own try.

A lapse in concentration at the re-start gifted the ball to Bridgend who passed the ball along the line to the winger, who raced in for an unconverted try, to make it 14-5.

A quick tap penalty by Spencer Robinson started the backs off with the ball, and Will Gale in the centre cut through the defence to score under the posts; the try was converted.

Bridgend moved upfield and with the help of a couple of penalties, managed to cross for a try right on half-time for a score of 21-10 to the Vale.

From the re-start, the Vale forwards started well, moving the big Bridgend pack around the field, and from a ruck on the Bridgend 22, James Holder went inside three players on his way to score; Cai Evans added the conversion.

From a quick tap penalty, Bridgend crashed over to make it 28-17.

Bridgend added another try and the Vale players were now tackling for their lives. From a tackle in midfield, Bridgend spilt the ball. Will Gale was the first to react and picked up the ball, brushing off two tacklers on his way to score under the posts.

Cai Evans added the two points to make it a final score of 35-22.

Thanks to Bridgend Schools for a great match and the parents for providing the post match meal.

Zoe's marathon bid for 'Right to Play'

A YOUNG mum from the Vale has set herself a daunting running challenge to raise money for a charity, with the London Marathon this Sunday just the start of it.

Zoe Emery, a mum of two, who lives in Llanmaes, will run the 26.2 miles of the London Marathon, and follow it up with even more mileage in other events!

She told The GEM: "I am running in London for the first time. Last year and this year, I have been running many half-marathons and 10Ks to raise money for a fantastic charity called 'Right to Play'.

"Any money raised will make a huge difference to a young life, which has been affected by war, poverty and disease in Africa, Asia or the Middle East.

"With just £20, Right to Play can provide regular, weekly sport and play activity for one child for one year – £160 can provide for a coach.

"I plan to run not just the London Marathon, but an additional 53 miles in other events later this year.

"My target is to raise £2,000 – and if people would like to sponsor me, I would appreciate any support."

To support Zoe please go to: www.justgiving.com/zoeemery1; and for information on Right to Play please go to www.rightto play.org.uk

ABOVE: Zoe Emery is taking on the London Marathon for the first time this Sunday.

Cowbridge bowlers in early season draw

THE Cowbridge men's team played its first competitive home game of the season last Saturday.

The opposition was Beddau and the match was played in ideal bowling conditions – very little, if any, wind and full sun throughout.

This was in marked contrast to Beddau's previous visit to Cowbridge two years ago when the game was memorable for having been played in the worst conditions imaginable.

Parts of the green were then under water from the driving rain!

The match this time was destined for a draw.

At the tea interval three of the four rinks were level at nine shots each. In fact the game ended after 21 ends with both teams having scored 62 shots each. A draw was a fair result in a match played in a good spirit.

Rink scores: Brian Elsey, Rob Lewis, Ron Frayling, Len Taylor (skip). Won 16-13.

Derek Woolley, Ron Woolford, Alan Richards, Byron Richards (skip). Lost 15-19.

Mansel Davey, Bill Looker, John Jones, Dennis Snelling (skip). Won 18-17.

Charles Sanders, Clive Pritchard, Steve Dickens, Norman Wilkinson (skip). Drew 13-13.

On Saturday, the men play at Gelligaled. Meanwhile, the ladies preparation for the start of their season has gone well.

MB

COWBRIDGE MINI AND JUNIOR RUGBY ROUND-UP

Successful day's work for rugby players

Under-7s – Pontypridd (home)

A BEAUTIFUL, almost summer morning, on the Cattle Market pitch saw the under-7s entertaining Pontypridd in a game of four halves.

From Ioan Davies' opening try and an answering try from Pontypridd, it was obvious that both teams have developed their skills during their opening season of rugby.

Further tries from Ben Farrell, Ioan Davies, Harri Howkins and Oliver Jarmain, interspersed with some lovely Pontypridd replies, ensured a thoroughly entertaining match and victory to Cowbridge by 9-8.

In the second game, the boys really got into their defensive play and when the inevitable turnovers came, were well placed to convert the pressure into points.

Tries came in freely from Oliver Jarmain, Ioan Davies, David Harris and Charlie Lock for a final score of 9-5.

The boys should now move on to the under-8s next season with confidence, their skills hardly recognisable from those evident at the beginning of the season.

Thanks go to the coaches for their efforts during the boys first-ever year of rugby.

Full squad: Ioan Davies, Ben Farrell, Owen Godsell, David Harris, Robbie Hawkins, Elis Howell, Harri Howkins, Oliver Jarmain, Aled Leitch, Dewi Lloyd-Williams, Charlie Lock.

Under-11s v Penarth (home)

COWBRIDGE completed their last home game of the season with a hard-fought but comprehensive win against Penarth.

Both teams fielded 15-a-side in preparation for next season and produced open and free-flowing rugby from start to finish.

The strength and pace of the home side pack began to tell, and good inter-passing between Henry Jones and Harry Hopkins set up a platform for scrum-half Cai Evans to release wing James Holder.

He sprinted 20 yards to open the scoring.

The Cowbridge forwards, Duncan Ace and Matthew Keating, were in outstanding form, and from a lineout on the halfway line, James Waters secured possession. Seán Davies received quick ball and made good ground before passing to Michael Thomas for a well-worked try which was converted by Cai Evans.

Although the visitors fought back bravely, good defensive work by Rhys Beynon and Charlie Martin ensured that Cowbridge finished the half with a comfortable 12-0 lead.

Although the home side made a number of changes for the second half, they remained well in control, and within minutes of the restart, second row Joe Watts drove forward from a line out to set up Cai Evans for the third try, which he then converted.

An elusive run by Harrison Stevens on the left wing ended when he was brought down just 10 metres from the line.

Back row forward Tomos Evans-Williams, following up, fed his backs with a quick pass, leading to Toff Patel beating off a number of tackles to score the final try, converted by Cai Evans.

The Cowbridge backs were now in full flow, with Sam John and Charlie Pegrum causing panic in the visiting defence, and only desperate tackling by Penarth prevented a further score.

A final flourish by the visitors saw them almost cross the Cowbridge line on a number of occasions, but good work by Ollie Rampling and Josh Evans ensured Cowbridge kept a clean sheet for the fifth time this season for a **final score of Cowbridge 26, Penarth 0.**

Cowbridge now look forward with anticipation to their visit to the Bath festival next week.

ML

Former Cowbridge pupil selected in Welsh sevens team

THE British Universities and Colleges Sport Home Nations Tournament was hosted this year in Edinburgh, an event in which sportsmen and women from English, Northern Irish, Scottish and Welsh Universities play against one another in three days of intense competition.

Former Cowbridge Comprehensive School pupil Emma Thomas, who is at Aberystwyth University, was selected to represent the Welsh rugby sevens universities team this year.

Wales lost to England and Scotland, but ended on a high, beating Northern Ireland in their final game.

ART IN PENARTH

FUTURE events at the Washington Gallery include:

Until May 23, British art medal exhibition. A unique exhibition spread across four Cardiff venues, including the National Museum.

Until May 14, new work by Jackie Morris. The opening evening is on April 23, 7pm-9pm, when the exhibition will be opened by Simon Dancey.

Workshops: Children's art club every Wednesday and Thursday, 4pm-5pm; Pen and wash workshop 2pm-4pm, April 28; Pastel workshop 10m-12noon, April 29; Harp workshop 10am-4pm, May 23.

Until May 9, woad and rush – an exhibition of 2D and 3D work by Lyn Griffiths, Pat Johnson and Daphne Lancaster.

EMAIL US!

● WE welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at: ggem@internet-today.co.uk

Karate group head to Japan

A MIXED group of players are planning to go to Japan in May 2010, when Shihan Lee Costa and Sensei Mike Humphries take a group of eight to the southernmost island to study and train in the city of Fukuoka.

The group consist of Lee Costa, Mike Humphries, Chris Mason, Ceiran Humphries, Lucy Baker, Eira Culverwell (Cowbridge), Dale Kitch and Rory Coleman.

Lucy is the youngest at just 16, while Dale and Rory are about to finish their final year at Ysgol Bro Morganwg in Barry.

Eira is a successful tournament fighter, and father and son Mike and Ceiran are well known and respected in karate circles.

The Wales Karate Jutsu Kai (under chief instructor Lee Costa) is one of the oldest and more established associations and now concentrates its activities at Cogan Leisure Centre.

Should there be any GEM readers who may wish to offer sponsorship for this or future events, contact Lee Costa by email at karatejutsu@hotmail.co.uk

LC

SPORTS NEWS FROM YSGOL BRO MORGANNWG

Under-18s take title at top sevens tournament

ABOVE: The school's rugby first XV, who were just pipped in the Welsh Scools Cup final.

THE school was delighted recently when the under-18s sevens team triumphed in the Llandovery College Invitation Sevens competition.

The team beat Ysgol Preseli, Crymych, in a close and exciting final, having registered victories over fancied sides Christ College Brecon and Llandovery College itself.

The team, captained by Lloyd Thomas from Dinas Powys, have enjoyed an immensely successful season. The full first team won through to the Welsh Schools Cup final, having beaten Radyr 20-10 at the Old Pens Ground Penarth.

The final was played at UWIC at the beginning of April, where the Bro Morgannwg side were narrowly beaten 11-6 in an enthralling contest by local rivals Glantaf.

ABOVE: The sevens team.

Welsh gymnastics success!

A NUMBER of pupils gained particular recognition and praise at the recent Welsh Gymnastics championship.

In the Welsh Schools tumble and vault finals, the following pupils were successful: Elinor Lewis (under-19 champion), Elinor Lewis and Finlay Haswell (under-19 team champions), Rhidian Mepham (under-19 runner up), Ffion Byrne (under-13 champion and team first), Iwan Mepham (under-13 runner up).

ABOVE: Some of the girl gymnasts who took medals.

RIGHT: A podium finish for Ysgol Bro Morgannwg gymnasts.

Barry's Aaron minds the net for victorious Welsh ice hockey team

LEFT: Aaron with his trophy and the shield.

BARRY Comprehensive School's Aaron Archer has recently returned from Rotherham where he represented Wales in the Hockey Super League Championship.

The Wales team played a series of matches against English regional teams, culminating in a final against south-west England.

Aaron, who is in year-10, is the goalie for the team and his skills proved essential in securing Wales' victory in the final.

Aaron and his team mates were especially proud of their achievement, because this was the first time the Wales under-14 team had won the championship.

Hopes are high for the Welsh point-to-point 'Grand National' day

by BRIAN LEE

THE Welsh point-to-point 'Grand National' takes place at Redlands Park Racecourse, Bonvilston, on Saturday and last year's winner *Misamon,* is expected to face the starter.

Others of note for this three-and-a-half mile mixed open race include that good stayer *Minsgill Man, Roznic* and *Oca De Thix*.

An interesting entry is *Cool Cliche*, whose owner Ian Brice, who lives not far from the course, won it some years ago with *High Guardian*.

However, *Cool Cliche* who has been placed in good company under rules, is still without a win and has also been entered for the open maiden race.

More than 160 horses have been entered for the six races and the course has been watered on a daily basis.

Racing gets under way with the members' race at 2pm and Mrs Rae Jones has high hopes of winning it with her *Up There*, which finished third in the Lady Dudley Cup at the Worcestershire meeting last weekend.

The Dunraven Bowl Novices Hunter Chase open to horses qualified in the south and west Wales areas will be held at Chepstow Racecourse tomorrow (Friday) and *Master Charm*, trained by Abbi Vaughan at Aberthin, is expected to give reigning Welsh champion rider Rhys Hughes his third win in this prestigious race.

A good win for Diamondaire

DENISE Williams's *Diamondaire* was an impressive winner at the West Somerset Vale Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Cotlestone.

Confidently ridden by Ogmore's Nick Williams (no relation) *Diamondaire*, who was racing for the first time, won his division of the two-and-a-half-mile maiden race by 15 lengths, the fastest of the two maiden race winners.

Diamondaire is trained by Mrs Williams's husband Phil, a former leading point-to-point rider who served his time with the legendary trainer Bruce Hobbs who, at 17, remains the youngest rider to have won a Grand National.

Castleland Tae Kwon Do stars are on Paul O'Grady

RIGHT: Tae Kwon Do students from Castleland meet Paul O'Grady.

MASTER Leon Shakespeare, who conducts Tae Kwon Do classes at Castleland Community Centre, and his young students were selected to appear on The Paul O'Grady Show recently.

Parents, Eileen Moore, the Castleland Community Association chair, and Sue Brine, the community manager, were also invited.

Everyone was treated to an all expenses paid trip to Olga TV studios in London, which included a one night stay-over in a hotel adjacent to the London Eye.

As you can see from the photograph, everyone was made more than welcome and were also given a conducted tour of the studio.

Rehearsals went well and recording began with Leon and the group demonstrating Tae Kwon Do moves and mock fighting.

Paul O'Grady surprised them all by providing them with new suits, a set of mats to practise on, lockers, and a cheque to cover the expense of annual licences and subscription fees.

The donation will enable Leon's Tae Kwon Do group to grow and continue to provide the community with a valuable service.

Later, in the green room, Paul was presented with a Welsh woolly hat, which he said would be ideal to wear on his allotment.

Paul and his crew were marvellous and made everyone feel comfortable and welcome.

SB

Castleland youngsters 'thrilled' with new kit

CASTLELAND Football Club has been able to purchase a new kit for the team, thanks to Castleland Community Association, CYPIC (Children and Young People In the Community), and Paravision.

The club is managed and run by two local resident volunteers, Mathew and Tanya Dee, who are both fully trained in FAW and sports leader courses.

Coaching sessions are held on a Sunday afternoon in Castleland Community Centre from 3pm–4 pm for children aged five–12 years. New players are welcome.

Mathew said: "At the club, children have the opportunity to learn new skills, make new friends, build their social skills and most importantly have fun – all free of cost.

"On behalf of our members at the club, we would like to say a huge thank you to our sponsors. The children are absolutely thrilled to at last have a new kit and the identity and ownership that goes with it."

For more information on the club, please call 01446 403549.

Tennis hopefuls join UK coaching scheme

A NUMBER of junior tennis players from the Vale have been retained on the Lawn Tennis Association's (LTA) AEGON FutureStars programme for a second consecutive year.

The players that have been reselected are: Safiyyah Azeez (Dinas Powys), a 16-year-old who trains at the Esporta Health and Racquets Club, Cardiff; James Hignett (Penarth, 17) who trains at the International High Performance Centre at the University of Bath; and Matthew Kamal (Pontyclun, 13), who trains at the Esporta Health and Racquets Club, Cardiff.

The players are among 395 youngsters selected for the programme which recognises and supports some of the best juniors in the country, based on the individual player's talent ID assessment or ranking.

They were first awarded a place on the AEGON FutureStars programme in 2009, and after a successful year on court, have been selected as part of the 2010 intake of players.

They will join top juniors who all receive varying levels of funding and support from the LTA.

James Hignett.

Matthew Kamal.

WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE IN THE VALE?

Mr Roger Hall – **50 Plassey Street, Penarth** – conversion of existing workshop to dwelling with vehicular and pedestrian access.
Mr Simon Lane – **Northcliff Farm, Dyffryn** – extension and alterations to farmhouse, plus replace existing attached dairy building with residential extension and alterations to domestic curtilage.
Mr and Mrs G May – **6 Brig-y-Don Hill, Ogmore by Sea** – loft conversion, including erection of dormer to form elevation.
Mrs Emma Lang – **39 Teifi Drive, Barry** – proposed rear single storey kitchen extension.
Mr Clive Francis – **6 Twyn yr Eglwys, Colwinston** – two storey extension to existing dwelling providing new kitchen dining room and en-suite bathroom.
Mr Nicholas Bastier – **Mor Don, 14 Main Road, Ogmore by Sea** – demolish existing porch and rebuild to new dimensions, extend existing garage to incorporate woodshed and store.
Mr Graham – **San Marco House, 26 Craig Yr Eos Road, Ogmore By Sea** – single storey front extension.
Ms J Williams – **5 Town Mill Road, Cowbridge** – reduction of two metres to sycamore and almond; and around 60cms from a conifer and acer.
Mrs George – **Aberthin House, Llanquian Road, Aberthin, near Cowbridge** – dismantle cherry in rear garden and leaning ash in front garden.
Mr Jones – **11 Elm Grove, Barry** – proposed external refurbishment works and conservatory to rear of property.
Mr Brendan Boyle – **Woodland Rise, St Andrews Road, Dinas Powys** – amendment to full planning permission 2009/00774/FUL - dormer window on front elevation.
Mrs Tara Lloyd – **Peterston Super Ely Primary School, Heol Llanbedr, Peterston Super Ely** – erection of hexagonal wooden shelter.
Mr Russell Evans – **Marlborough Farm Lodge, Crossways, Cowbridge** – erection of double storey side extension, conservatory, porch and double garage to front.
Mrs Rita Patel – **83 South Road, Sully** – retention of two-metre high gates and pillar.
Mrs Carol Dagwell – **The Stables, Penllyn** – construction of new conservatory.
Mr S Collier – **Springfield, Westra, Dinas Powys** – proposed car port.
Mr Neil Fox – **Foxy's Delicatessen, 7 Victoria Buildings, Victoria Road, Penarth** – variation of condition No 3 referring to opening times attached to approved application 05/01050/FUL for a proposed rear extension and basement conversion to provide additional seating and kitchen/prep area.
Mr Wesley Drew – **45 Spencer Drive, Llandough** – two storey and single storey extensions to side and rear of existing house and former detached garage.
Mr Matthew Reypert – **97 Wordsworth Avenue, Penarth** – first floor bedroom extension.
Mr Geraint Williams – **4 Mountjoy Crescent, Penarth** – single storey rear extension.
Mrs Frampton – **Great Hamston Farm, Dyffryn** – conservatory to rear.
Mr Chris Coxon – **14 Park Road, Barry** – convert roof space to living rooms and bathroom.
Mrs Heather Morrison – **5 Church Crescent, St Hilary** – erection of single storey extension to front and rear of existing house.
Penarth Town Council – **The Kymin, Beach Road, Penarth** – replace existing roof light turret with flush rooflight, replace existing external steel access/escape staircase to first floor flat and install CCTV security cameras on main building and on isolated garage building.
Mr and Mrs BW Toutt – **The Old Vicarage, A48 Cowbridge Road, Bonvilston** – proposed alterations to roof and internal alterations to enable additional living accommodation at first floor level; single storey side extension to provide sunroom, construction of proposed detached double garage with store above.
Mrs Anwen Pegrum – **Downcross, Turkey Street, Llantwit Major** – alter window details to rear elevation of house.
Mr David Avraam – **Bwthyn Castell, West Street, Llantwit Major** – proposed side and rear extensions, including basement excavation and front elevation alterations.
Mrs Ann Macdougall – **7 Cefn Mount, Dinas Powys** – single storey extension and dormer to rear elevation.
Curo Sterling (Valegate) Ltd – **Unit B, Valegate Retail Park, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff** – mixed use development comprising retail warehousing, garden centre, office development and fast food restaurant with associated car parking, landscaping and access - variation of condition 7 of 91/-1282/OUT to allow 185,859m net of retail floor space to be used for the sale of men's and women's fashion clothing or footwear fashion accessories, jewellery, cosmetics and toiletries pharmaceutical products, within unit B only.
Mr and Mrs James – **7 Cowper Close, Penarth** – conservatory to the rear elevation.
Springfield (Llandow) Ltd – **Springfield Spray, Sutton Road, Llandow, Cowbridge** – amendment to existing planning permission - 2009/00919/FUL 1. Alterations to location of personnel access door 2. Change of building cladding material to lower section of RHS gable wall 3. Change in location of high level ventilation grilles.
Mr Hayden Thomas – **Maendy Uchaf Farm, Maendy, Cowbridge** – proposed new hay and machinery storage building.
Mr Simon Stratton – **50 Brookfield Avenue, Barry** – extension to side of property to provide general storage.
Mr Richard Thomas – **5 Cherwell Road, Penarth** – addition of dormer windows in roof, addition of new bi-fold doors, amendments to window location and sizes and internal plan adjustments.
TB Davies (UK) Ltd – **Waterton House, Brocastle Avenue, Waterton Industrial Estate, Bridgend** – extension to existing industrial unit.
Mr John Collins – **14 Benecroft, Rhoose** – conversion of existing garage to proposed dining room.
Mr Tony Underdown – **26 Adenfield Way, Rhoose** – single storey rear extension.
Mr Ian Gaughan – **Southwinds, St Lythans** – erection of structure to enclose external swimming pool with accommodation above.
Mr Philip Baker – **10 Clos Tawe, Barry** – demolish porch and create a garage at existing 10 Clos Tawe. Utilise southern 290m2 of plot to create a new three-bed house with garage. To facilitate this demolish existing garage in southern part of plot. Provide rear amenity space by providing a culvert for existing stream/water course that runs through plot.
The Matthew Pruwett Trust – **Sutton Farm, Fort Road, Lavernock, Penarth** – extension of approved residential curtilage.

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Motability

CARS MUST BE REGISTERED BY 30th APRIL 2010

Price of £7995 relates to Spark 1.0. Vehicle shown in Spark 1.2 LT. Vehicles shown feature metallic paint available at extra cost (Spark and Aveo £365, Cruze and Captiva £400). 3 years/30,000 miles full service package at an optional cost (Cruze, Spark and Aveo £269, Captiva £399). Available at participating retailers only. The Programme is available to eligible customers who trade in a qualifying vehicle against the purchase of a new qualifying Chevrolet Aveo, Lacetti, Cruze or Captiva at a participating authorised UK Chevrolet Retailer during the Programme period which is between 6th April 2010 and 5th July 2010 inclusive. Eligibility is subject to compliance with all requirements set out in these terms and conditions. The trade-in vehicle must be a passenger car (M1) first registered in the United Kingdom between 1st March 2000 and 31st March 2004. Terms and conditions apply; please speak to your local retailer for further details. The new vehicle must be ordered between 6th April 2010 and 5th July 2010 inclusive, registered by 5th July 2010, and declared new at first registration in the UK with no former keepers. The Programme cannot be used in conjunction with any other Programme or offer. Only one discount is available per new vehicle. Savings against current manufacturers retail price at time of publication and available on UK supplied vehicles. Prices correct at time of press.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Aveo 1.4 LT 5dr: Urban - 35.8 (7.9), Extra-urban - 60.1 (4.7), Combined - 47.9 (5.9). CO_2 emissions 140g/km. Captiva 2.0 VCDi LT 7-seat: Urban - 31.7 (8.9), Extra-urban - 42.8 (6.6), Combined - 38.2 (7.4). CO_2 emissions 197g/km. Cruze 1.6 LS 4dr: Urban - 31.4 (9.0), Extra-urban - 51.4 (5.5), Combined - 41.5 (6.8). CO_2 emissions 159g/km. Chevrolet Spark range emissions: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1), CO_2 Emissions 119 g/km.

10 PLATE

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04 **04 SKODA Fabia 1.2 Limited Edition 5-dr hatchback** in met green with grey interior, alloy wheels, electric windows, colour coded bumpers, service history, only 52,765 miles **£3,795**

03 **03 HONDA Civic Type S 5-dr** in clover green met with half leather sports seats, climate control, alloy wheels, rear spoiler, full Honda service history, only 36,030 miles **£5,695**

03 **52 BMW 1.8 316i SE Touring Estate** in Sapphire Black with antracite interior, alloys wheels, 6 CD multichanger automatic air con, colour coded bumpers, only 50,280 miles **£6,995**

02 **03 DAEWOO Lanos 1.6 SE** In Pacific blue with Eos cloth, alloy wheels, air con, CD, colour coded bumpers, heated door mirrors, alarm and immobiliser, only 26,971 miles **£1,995**

02 **51 PEUGEOT 306 1.6 Meridian Auto Estate** in met silver with half black leather, air con, alloys wheels, cd, colour coded bumpers, alarm and immobiliser, roof rails, fsh, only 88,970 miles **£2,995**

SMALL

09 **09 VAUXHALL Corsa Club A/C 1.2 16v 5-Dr.** In black sapphire, with cable charcoal interior, air con, colour coded bumpers, CD, alarm and immobiliser, auxiliary output, only 18,218 miles **£8,495**

09 **09 CHEVROLET Aveo LT 1.4** in pearl black with bricket cloth, aircon, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, alarm and immobiliser, cd, only 16,900 miles **£6,995**

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08 **57 FORD KA Style Climate.** In tango red with cascade interior, colour coded bumpers, air con, CD, Quickclear front screen, only 32,136 miles **£5,295**

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07 **07 RENAULT Clio Dynamique 1.4 5-dr Hatchback** in silver with black interior, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, fog lights, only 37,550 miles **£6,995**

06 **06 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 5-dr Hatchback.** In platinum silver with grey interior, alloy wheels, steering wheel mounted audio controls, colour coded bumpers, CD, only 19,860 miles **£5,995**

06 **55 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style Climate 3-dr** in tonic blue with Kyoto ebony interior, air con, quickclear front screen, cd, trip computer, colour coded bumpers, only 41,820 miles **£5,295**

05 **05 MINI 1.6 One (salt) 3-dr Hatchback.** In pure silver with anthracite interior, 6 CD changer, automatic dipping rear-view mirror, panoramic roof, body coloured bumpers, only 39,600 miles **£7,995**

05 **05 HYUNDAI Getz 1.1 GSi 5-dr** in clean silver with grey cloth interior, cd, 5 belted seats, driver and passenger airbags, immobiliser, colour coded bumpes, only 26,280 miles **£3,995**

04 **04 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 Coupe Cabriolet 2-dr** in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, air con, cdm alloy wheels, alarm, only 43,895 miles **£6,495**

04 **04 FORD Fiesta 1.4 SILVER Limited Edition.** In moondust silver with full midnight black leather, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, cd, only 29,775 miles **£4,995**

03 **53 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 16v SXi 3-dr hatchback** in black with dark interior, colour coded bumpers, alloy wheels, cd, only 45,800 miles **£3,795**

02 **02 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 Coupe Cabriolet S 2-dr** in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, auto lights, only 64,220 miles **£5,495**

02 **52 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique 3-dr Hatchback** in met silver with dark interior, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, auto lights, only 48,060 miles **£3,495**

01 **51 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 Coupe Cabriolet SE 2-dr** in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, digital climate control, cd, 16 inch alloy wheels, front fogs, only 46,010 miles **£3,995**

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02 **02 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 Coupe Cabriolet S 2-dr** in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, auto lights, only 64,220 miles **£5,495**

09 **09 CHEVROLET Aveo LT 1.4** in pearl black with bricket cloth, aircon, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, alarm and immobiliser, cd, only 16,900 miles **£6,995**

03 **53 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 16v SXi 3-dr hatchback** in black with dark interior, colour coded bumpers, alloy wheels, cd, only 45,800 miles **£3,795**

06 **55 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style Climate 3-dr** in tonic blue with Kyoto ebony interior, air con, quickclear front screen, cd, trip computer, colour coded bumpers, only 41,820 miles **£5,295**

03 **03 HONDA Civic Type S 5-dr** in clover green met with half leather sports seats, climate control, alloy wheels, rear spoiler, full Honda service history, only 36,030 miles **£5,695**

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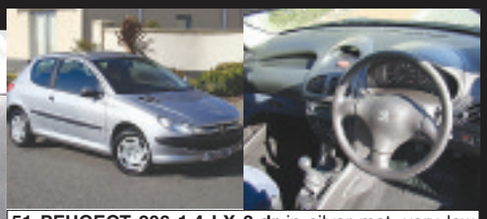

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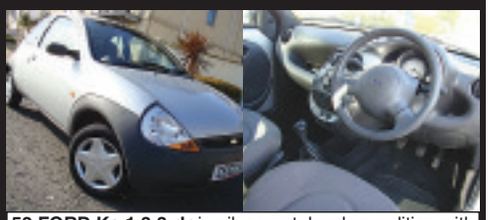

52 FORD Ka 1.3 3-dr in silver met, lovely condition with full service history, MoT until August . . . . **NOW £2295**

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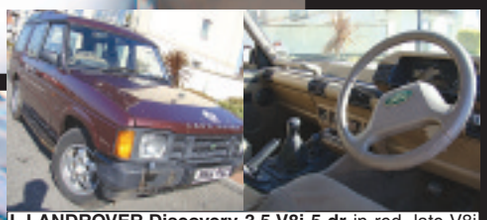

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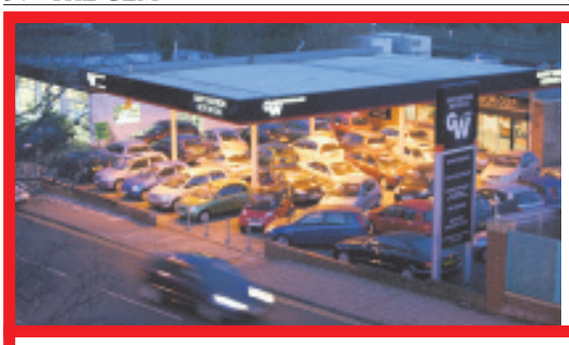

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07	**RENAULT Clio 12 Expression 3-dr.** In steel blue, 33,000 miles with a/c, c/d, etc	£6,495
56	**FORD Focus 1.4LX 5-dr.** In electric blue, 30,000 miles with a/c, cd, etc	£6,495
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54	**TOYOTA Avensis 1.8 T3X 5-dr.** In silver, 42,000 miles, 2 owner example at	£5,995
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06 56 HYUNDAI 1.4 Getz GSi 3-dr. Black, met, 15k miles, rcl, ew, pas, cd **£4,975**
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07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Campus 5-dr, grey met, 39k miles, rcl, pas, ew, cd **£5,775**
04 04 FORD StreetKa 1.6 Luxury. Met black, 49k . . **£5,975**
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07 07 PEUGEOT 307 Hdi 90SE TURBO DIESEL. Green/grey met, 38k miles, alloys, rcl, ew, cd, a/c **£7,975**
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04 04 SUZUKI Jimny JLX model 3-dr. Met red on silver, petrol 1.3, 18k miles, alloy wheels, roof rails, side steps, leather seats **£6,495**
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53 03 MG ZT-T 120 Estate, met red, rcl, pas, 67,000 miles **£2,950**
03 03 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16 valve Expression, met black, , low miles **£2,950**
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GEM sport

Cowbridge RFC take the positives from Blackwood defeat

COWBRIDGE entertained second-placed Blackwood Stars at the Athletic Field last Saturday, and despite the scoreline of 3-33, put in a battling performance when it would have been easy to have folded.

On a very warm afternoon, Blackwood proved too hot for Cowbridge in the opening 15 minutes, scoring three tries, the first after only two minutes as their full-back went under the posts for a converted try.

Minutes later, Lawrence Brown put over a penalty but Blackwood responded with two further tries.

Things were not looking good but Cowbridge dug deep and battled through the rest of the half, having their own moments. On the 30-minute mark, inside-centre Huw Rees cut through and wing Tim Naylor was on hand to keep a move going that should have produced more.

Scrum-half Dewi Edwards was keeping Blackwood on their toes and from one of his attacks, the ball spun to outside-centre Huw Lougher who cut inside right to the line.

In the ensuing ruck, the ball came clear and full-back Richie Howson touched down for what seemed to be a perfectly good score; sadly, the ref disagreed.

With the pack, although not having an easy time, fighting for possession and the backs showing what they could do, it was a creditable half-time score, 3-21.

Cowbridge opened well in the second half with No 8 Jamie Bennet making good ground with a couple of jinking runs.

On the 50-minute mark, prop Jon Phillips gave way to Zac Mcpherson, while Carwyn Davies was replaced in the back row.

Captain Steve Birchenough, who had led the terrific forward effort, was forced off with an injury and a reshuffle saw some movement of players, but the effort was sure to take its toll and 25 minutes in, the Blackwood No 7 crossed for a try.

After a great effort alongside Rhys Price in the front row, prop Alun John gave way to Dai Breed.

Just past the 30-minute mark, Blackwood scored again through the No 7 after a confusing signal from the ref as to whose penalty it was caught Cowbridge unawares.

Then, on the 35-minute mark, Cowbridge produced a move as good as anything from Blackwood. Following a great Bennet take in the lineout, outside-half Huw Lougher, with a flat pass, missed out two players and Howson entered the line at pace for a run of 30 metres before he was caught – the pity was it hadn't been on the Blackwood 22.

The game ended with another jink by Bennett and a drive up field by Lawrence Brown. Final score 3-33.

It was a loss and the score on paper didn't look good, but it masked a great team effort. If that sort of effort and more can be produced, then surely one or more of the last three games will result in a win.

Finally, congratulations again to the Youth for a fine 5-29 win at Llandaff North. Try scorers were Russell Watkins (2), Nick Davies (2), Huw Moorcroft (1) and two conversions for Mike Lloyd.

The team are in a great position in the league and have their final game against Barry.

Well done to all players and coaches whatever the final outcome and good luck!

RV/RK

Point-to-point makes for a grand day out

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

FOR the second Saturday on the trot, thousands of racegoers turned up at Ystradowen near Cowbridge to attend a point-to-point meeting.

This time it was the turn of the Ystrad Taf Fechan Hunt and the crowd enjoyed themselves tremendously.

Only two went to post for the opening members' race and those who bet the long odds-on favourite *Cranemore*, ridden by Welsh ladies' champion Isabel Tompsett, soon had cause to regret it as the six-year-old grey gelding cocked his jaw approaching the eighth fence and ran out, leaving the 10-year-old *Billy Lane*, ridden by Emily Farr, a lone and lonely figure on the horizon.

Emily would have had a clear round but for being unseated at the very last obstacle.

However, never-say-die Emily remounted, retraced and passed the winning post to great acclaim.

Amber Griffiths (19), riding William Tudor's *MerthyrMawr*, and having only her sixth ride in a point-to-point, rode a well-judged race to take the restricted by seven lengths from *Sherfield Don*, with *Minella For Beef* a further two lengths away in third place. The favourite, *Title Deed,* trailed in fourth.

Amber, who comes from Merthyr Mawr, rides out for Jonathan Tudor and Tim Vaughan and is a graduate of the pony club.

In the intermediate race, Matthew Barber (18), from Pembrokeshire, rode his second winner on the French-bred *Prince Car* who is trained by his older brother Marc.

Prince Car, a seven-year-old brown gelding, went clear four fences from the finish to beat the odds-on favourite *Opal Ridge* by six lengths.

The John Lovell Memorial Men's Open was won by Brett Lloyd's *Roznic*, who finished five lengths ahead of *Tarsus* in a time which was 30 seconds faster than the 12-year-old had taken when winning the Glamorgan Hunt members' race seven days earlier.

Roznic, trained by Abbi Vaughan, at Aberthin, was the first leg of a double for rising star Tom David.

Ingrid Shervington's game *Grey Kid* landed the ladies' open race, winning by eight lengths from *Little Miss Monty* who was given a good ride by Emily Farr.

"He's like fine wine, he gets better with age," said winning jockette Jodie Hughes, who was winning on the 12-year-old for the third time.

Robbie Llewellyn (18) chalked-up his first winner in the young horse maiden when finishing alone on Ruth Rees's seven-year-old mare *Shelagh Vee*.

The 1-6 favourite *Piment D'Estruval* unseated Rhys Hughes at the second fence and in doing so carried out the only other runner, *Sleepers Hill*. Robbie rides out for David Brace.

Mrs Rees, who is master of the Pembrokeshire Hunt, was gaining her first success with her first point-to-pointer and was clearly delighted.

The aged maiden gave Tom David the second leg of his double as riding Mr Robert Harraway's *Silver Gun*, Tom had the nine-year-old bay gelding in a handy position throughout and was always going a little bit better than the runner-up *Synisterdexter*.

Mr Harroway, a farmer from the Beaufort Hunt country, when asked why he decided to run his horse at Ystradowen, said: "I ran a horse here last year and although it wasn't a winner, I liked the track." He was also full of praise for Tom David.

Has a local rugby fan lost a cherished memento?

ABOVE: The above rugby photograph was handed into The GEM after it was found in the street. Here in The GEM, we can't even agree on which decade the photograph was taken in. Does it strike a chord with any reader and, more important, can you help us return it to its owner? It surely must have some sentimental value.

Sun shines on junior open day

ON A BEAUTIFUL Sunday morning, Cowbridge Cricket Club's season got off to a fantastic start with a well attended junior open day.

Youngsters between 7 and 15 were provided with the opportunity to have a taster of the game while a number of the parents watched on in glorious sunshine.

A club spokesman said: "It was great to see so many new members and even more pleasing that some of the new faces were girls. The club is very keen to establish a girl's team in 2010, so if there are any more young ladies wishing to participate, then please come along to future training sessions".

After the coaching session, there was a barbecue and a raffle and the club is grateful to Jensen Sports, Hugh Williams and Glamorgan County Cricket Club for donating the raffle prizes.

Junior coaching will continue on a weekly basis for the under 15 age group on Tuesdays at 4pm and for the under 13 and under 11 age groups on Sunday mornings at 10.30am.

Senior nets will take place on Wednesday evenings at 6.30pm.

If you are interested in playing, then please come along and join in.

For further information, please contact Jonathan Smart on 07710088581 or visit the website – www.cowbridgecricket.co.uk

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